

U.S.-Soviet summit delay suggested

WASHINGTON (R) — The chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee said in an interview broadcast Sunday that the United States should consider postponing the scheduled May 30-June 3 superpower summit in the United States. Dante Fascell, a Florida Democrat, said President George Bush should delay Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a special "world stage" at a time the Soviet Union was tightening its economic blockade of the rebel republic of Lithuania. "Perhaps some consideration ought to be given not to have the summit under those conditions and delay it until later as long as it's clear that we're not delaying negotiations with respect to arms control, other important matters with the Soviet Union," he said. "But don't give the world stage at this point in time to a leader who is fighting the independence of the Baltic states," Fascell said.

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King, Saleh exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a telephone call from North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who congratulated him on his performing Omra. The two leaders also exchanged views on a number of issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council and Pan-Arab causes.

Princess Basma visits Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees, left for Indonesia on a several-day official visit upon an invitation from the daughter of Indonesian President Achmed Soeharto. Princess Basma will visit a number of social institutions and will acquaint herself with the experience of Indonesian women and contribution to the national development process. Indonesia is distinguished for its pioneer role in utilising voluntary societies in social development and popular participation in the development process through anganwadi women's contribution to economic and social activities.

U.S. PLO envoys meet

TUNIS (R) — Representatives of the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had a third meeting in Tunis less than 10 days Sunday, the PLO news agency WAFA said. The Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, Hakam Balawi, discussed PLO-American relations with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, designated in December 1988 as the sole channel for talks with the PLO, it said. It gave no details. Balawi and Pelletreau discussed the stalled Middle East peace process April 12. Last Tuesday the Palestinian ambassador said embassy Political Officer Edmund Hull.

Prison siege goes into fourth week

MANCHESTER (R) — Prisoners holding out in Britain's longest jail siege danced defiantly on the roof Sunday when Home Secretary David Waddington visited the riot-damaged prison. Seven convicts still refused to give themselves up as the siege at Strangeways prison in the northern English city of Manchester entered its fourth week. Waddington met prison officers during a two-hour visit and was briefed on efforts to end the siege which started April 1 when many of the prison's 1,650 inmates went on the rampage.

Lebanese legislator dies at 89

PARIS (AP) — Lebanon's oldest surviving legislator, Karam Al Khalil, died of a heart attack early Sunday during a visit to the French capital, family members reported. He was 89. Khalil had been in excellent health before going to bed Saturday and had presided over a meeting of Lebanese deputies living in Paris, the family said. He was found dead by one of his daughters about 0200 GMT. Khalil, a Shiite Muslim, will be buried in accordance with his will in Damascus, the holy site of Saint Zaynab, the family said. A memorial ceremony will be held in Beirut.

Pope to visit Cuba

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Pope John Paul will visit Cuba in December, a Vatican spokesman said Sunday. Spokesman Joaquin Navarro told reporters travelling with the Pope in Czechoslovakia that the trip, long in the planning, would take place before Christmas. But the exact date was not set.

Egyptian envoy presents credentials in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Egypt's first ambassador to Syria in more than a decade presented his credentials Sunday. Officials said Mustafa Abdul Aziz Mursi, an Egyptian career diplomat, presented his credentials to President Hafiz Al Assad.

Hostage freed

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Kidnappers released American hostage Robert Polhill in Beirut Sunday after 1,183 days of captivity and he has driven to Damascus by Syrian army officers.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told reporters in the Syrian capital: "The liberated hostage is Mr. Robert Polhill." The 55-year-old New Yorker was freed near the Summerland hotel in Beirut at 5:15 p.m. (1515 GMT) by his captors, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJP).

Syrian sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he arrived in Damascus about three hours later. He was to be handed over shortly to U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, the sources reported.

Syrian Television showed him in the back seat of a car during the trip to Damascus, smoking a cigarette, looking tired but cheerful.

"This is the Syrian military officer who arranged for your release," a Syrian broadcaster in the car said.

"Thank you very much," Polhill replied.

His wife, Feryal, waiting for him in Damascus, exclaimed "Oh God" when she heard the news and collapsed in tears, unable to say more.

Military sources in Beirut said Polhill was handed by his captors to Syria's chief of military intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan.

In a later TV broadcast of excerpts of another interview in an unidentified building in Damascus, Polhill, still smoking, said in a husky voice: "I'm very happy and grateful to all the people who spent time on my case."

"I'm still deeply concerned about my two friends and others who are still held in the conditions I was held in," he said.

"Some of them have been held longer than me. My happiness tonight is a bit toned down that they're not with me. I'm looking forward that we'll be together again, all of us," Polhill said.

After the interviewer translated his remarks into Arabic, he pushed his microphone back toward Polhill, who was at a loss for words.

He said: "I think it's better you ask me specific questions... I

can't summarise 39 months of my life. It's a little bit difficult at this moment."

The kidnappers said in a statement the release was in response to efforts by Muslim leaders, Syria, and their main backer Iran.

They had promised it for Friday but delayed it when President George Bush, determined to show he would not bargain with kidnappers, refused to send his top Middle East expert, John Kelly, to Damascus.

Polhill was born in Beacon, New York. He has two sons, Brian and Steven who are in their 20s and live in the United States with his first wife Joanne, whom he divorced in 1976.

Polhill, a diabetic, was kidnapped on Jan. 24, 1987 with American academics Jesse Turner, 42, and Alann Steen, who turned 51 on Sunday. An Indian colleague abducted with them was released in 1988.

Steen and Turner are still held by the kidnappers, who have described Polhill's release as a goodwill gesture intended to elicit concessions from the United States and led to a "happy ending" for other hostages.

They said last week that the released hostage would carry a message to Bush.

Sixteen Westerners remain missing and believed held by militants in Lebanon.

A few hours before Polhill was freed Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine sent news organisations a photograph of him with a handwritten statement in Arabic.

"It was decided to go ahead with the final arrangements after efforts by respected Muslim spiritual leaders, officials of the Islamic Republic of (Iran) and... Syria," the message said.

Qadhafi's call

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has called for the release of hostages, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported Sunday.

In an unusual urgent dispatch, the agency quoted Qadhafi as saying: "I urge, once again, all those who are holding hostages to release them in the fulfilment and application of the tolerant Islamic principles, especially the hostages who were carrying out humanitarian services, like members of the Red Cross."

According to one of the heads of the reform-pushing unions, the representation in the committee of large trade unions was not compatible with their numerical strength when compared with their counterparts which represent a lower number of members in their respective trades.

The dissidents, who mainly represent leftist, pan-Arab and independent trends and groupings, are expected to hold a press conference Monday afternoon to air their views and grievances.

"We will not participate in an un-parliamentary and undemocratic union any longer," said one union leader. "We insist that the Jordanian worker is given his full rights," said the union leader, speaking to

the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. He emphasised that the 10 unions which stayed away had presented their position in a written memorandum to the central council but that no action was taken.

The new central executive bureau members are as follows:

Secretary General Abdul Halim Khuddam; Council Chairman Muhammad Samir Ismail; Deputy Chairman Mazen Musaid; members — Abdul Razzaq Muhammad Said, Ahmad Al Shreideh, Fawzi Dussan, Ahmad Kodad, Rida Hussein, Abdul Rabbah Haj Hassan, Ahmad Kuehli, Muhammad Hararabeh, Youssef Mousa, Ahmad Abu Rawah and Hussam Beni Hani.

Plans have also been announced for new Jewish construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The housing ministry said the purchase of the lease in the Old City had been approved by finance ministry, now headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Levy's Likud Party.

Neighbouring Latvia's drive for independence received a show of support in a rally attended by 9,000 of the 16,000 newly elected members of that republic's city councils, regional bodies and parliament, a journalist reported.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are all trying to restore the inde-



Lower House of Parliament member Mohammad Al Haj Sunday addresses Ruseifa residents who are demanding the removal of a garbage dumping site from an area close to residences in the town. With Mr. Haj are fellow Muslim Brotherhood member Deeb Anis (left) and (to Mr. Haj's left) leftist deputies Mansour Murad, Bassam Haddadin and Fakhrul Kavar. It was the first time that Muslim Brotherhood and leftist members of Parliament joined forces in a popular protest action.

Ruseifa residents blockade garbage dump, serve notice

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An angry crowd of 200 men, women and children gathered in front of the fenced-in garbage dumping ground in Ruseifa Sunday and prevented the garbage trucks from entering the area for two hours, demanding the removal of the dumping site away from residential areas.

"All we are asking is that this garbage dumping site be removed from here. Our children are always sick and it is becoming unbearable," said a middle-aged woman from Ruseifa, a town with a population of 250,000.

According to an employee at the site, approximately 300 tonnes of garbage and other waste from Amman and Zarqa are dumped and buried into the Ruseifa ground, which lies very close to the residential area. The site was a phosphate mine before it was turned into a dumping ground last year.

"Let them take their garbage somewhere else. If we got used to the pollution of the phosphate mines, (but) we refuse to get used to the smell of garbage in our noses all the time," screamed a young man.

Deputy Mohammad Al Haj, head of the Environment Safety Committee of Ruseifa, said the committee was estab-

lished two weeks ago "as a result of the nasty smell from this garbage dumping site."

He said that studies conducted by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and a report by the Department of Environment showed the dangers of these dumping grounds on the air of the area and water resources, contending that the number of children with diseases increased, among them his own son.

"We visited several schools in the area, and noticed that the infected children had contagious diseases that spread to other students," Haj, who was among several other deputies at the site Sunday, told the Jordan Times.

According to Dr. Isam Ghazzawi, director of the Ruseifa Health centre, a few hundred people, mostly children, have been badly affected as a result of garbage being dumped so close to the residential areas.

"People have been complaining of respiratory problems, nausea, stomach aches, running noses, constant coughing and mostly difficult in breathing; and there are medical reports proving this," Ghazzawi said.

He told the Jordan Times that the fermentation resulting from the burial of the garbage

releases poisonous gases in the air, such as nitrogen and sulphur, which cause different diseases, most of them contagious.

Ghazzawi expressed fear that the garbage would seep into the water resources lying at 20 to 25 metres below the ground and infect drinking water.

The protestors gathered around the press to scream out their complaints, emphasising the bad health situation they are faced with as a result of garbage dumping.

"All over the world they are talking about the ozone layer; here, we only ask for clean air so that we don't have to live on medication. It's ridiculous to have to spend one's salary on medicine every month. Imagine those with 14 people in one family who make only JD 60 a month," complained one protestor.

"We have repeatedly called on the Greater Amman Municipality to remove the dumping grounds to elsewhere because the people are really suffering from the nasty smell, but they haven't responded," the mayor of Ruseifa, Musa Al Sa'ad, told the Jordan Times.

This was the second such protest. The first was launched

(Continued on page 5)

Crown Prince, ACC oil, energy ministers discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday met with the oil and energy ministers of the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and reviewed with them scopes for increased cooperation among the four countries in oil and energy related fields.

The Crown Prince and the ministers of Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan also discussed issues related to a meeting of the ministers due to begin Monday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The ministers of Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq arrived here Sunday.

Earlier Sunday, Jordan's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tabet Al Taber held a round of talks with his Iraqi counterpart Issam Al Chalabi on Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation in oil exploration, Petra said.

The two ministers also reviewed provisions of the technical cooperation agreement already concluded between the two countries and agreed to some amendments to it whereby it will be renewed automatically.

The Iraqi side has pledged its support for the Natural Resources Authority and to provide it with experts and technical

cadres. Chalabi also met with Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz and discussed with him issues of mutual interest.

Experts from ministries of oil and mineral resources in the ACC held a meeting in Amman Sunday to prepare for the ministers' conference scheduled for Monday.

Summing up the experts' meeting, Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary-general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, said several recommendations were taken designed to promote inter-ACC cooperation.

"The recommendations open the door for ACC states to increase their cooperation at private and public sector levels and give preference and priority to ACC organisations over foreign firms in engineering consultancy matters related to oil and energy," Badran said.

He said the experts stressed the need for stepped up exchanges in expertise, joint training, seminars and conferences related to energy and mineral resources. The recommendations also called for stepped up efforts in scientific research related to oil exploration and oil production.

Israel illegally seizes, abuses Arab homes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops seize Palestinian houses in the occupied territories for use as observation posts, burning furniture to keep warm and defecating on roofs, an Israeli human rights group said Sunday.

The B'tselem group accused the army of largely ignoring its own rules on the temporary seizure of Palestinian property for military purposes. The rules require presenting a seizure order and compensating residents.

In the 28 months of the Palestinian uprising, the army has occupied numerous Palestinian houses and rooftops for lookout posts and temporary housing throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

B'tselem said a check of confiscations showed that "in only one of the cases was the owner given a seizure order for his house."

"In all the other cases the owners say that they have never received an order or been told how long the soldiers would remain in their houses."

The report quoted a reservist's affidavit saying soldiers spent days at the outposts with no toilet facilities and defecate on rooftops, in stairwells and in rooms.

Asked about the report, military sources said international law recognised the army's right to use private property for defence purposes but the sources acknowledged there were "problems" in some cases.

Last October, soldiers took over the top floor of a house in the West Bank city of Nablus. The family told D'tselem the soldiers burned all their furniture to warm themselves, according to the report.

"There have been cases in the past when Israeli soldiers have not adhered to all the regulations involved. Mistakes have been made," one military source said. "But we view these as exceptions."

"They are a hostile population and it is recognised under international law that when a population is hostile the occupying army has certain things it has to do to protect itself," he said.

B'tselem said the situation raised difficult questions about the norms and legality of behaviour of soldiers and their commanders in the daily contact with residents of the occupied territories.

In the occupied areas Sunday, the first day of a two-day strike called by uprising leaders was only partly observed after residents complained it was too severe a measure during the fasting month of Ramadan.

The strike, called to protest at Israeli control over Arab Jerusalem, was cancelled in some parts of the West Bank and fully observed in the Gaza Strip.

Jordan marks Earth Day

(see page 3)

Moscow denies imposing total blockade of Lithuania

VILNIUS (Agencies) — A senior Soviet Communist Party official denied Sunday that the Kremlin was planning a total economic blockade of rebel Lithuania.

"Plans for a total economic blockade do not exist," said Andrei Girenko, a secretary in the party Central Committee who was in the Lithuanian capital to attend the congress of the republic's small pro-Moscow Communist Party.

Girenko told a news conference that although Moscow cut oil and gas supplies to Lithuania several days ago, other goods were still flowing to the republic.

He also said the Lithuanian independence movement was leading the republic to catastrophe.

Neighbouring Latvia's drive for independence received a show of support in a rally attended by 9,000 of the 16,000 newly elected members of that republic's city councils, regional bodies and parliament, a journalist reported.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are all trying to restore the inde-

pendence they lost in 1940 when they were occupied and forcibly annexed to the Soviet Union.

Lithuania has declared independence. Estonia has dropped enforcement of the Soviet constitution as part of a transition period to independence. Latvia is expected to declare its freedom from the Soviet Union May 3.

The Latvian officials meeting in Riga's Daugava Stadium adopted an appeal to the republic parliament to consider restoring Latvian independence "without delay in its first session," journalist Boris Kolesnikov reported Sunday.

Lithuanian Deputy Premier Romualdas Ozolas charged Saturday that a full embargo was beginning, with orders from Moscow to halt all rail and truck traffic to Lithuania.

Lithuanian officials also reported numerous large shipments of food, metals, wood, chemicals and parts had not arrived as scheduled, and payments to Lithuanian businesses have been halted.

But Girenko said Sunday that only oil and natural gas were being affected.

"This is only a small of the products that are supplied," he said.

The Soviet decision to cut off all of Lithuania's oil supply and nearly all of its natural gas is expected to put 70 per cent of the republic's workforce of 500,000 people out of work.

Most of the factories in Lithuania were closed Saturday, normally a workday, to conserve fuel and raw materials. Officials said that unless the economic situation changed, the few factories still open probably would have to shut down within two weeks.

Girenko told the news conference that to grant the Lithuanian government's demand that the republic be considered independent would mean constructing new economic relationships based on hard currency trade.

"This would sharply, catastrophically affect the republic's affairs and the living standards of its people," he said.

Israel admits financing Jerusalem settlers

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli government acknowledged Sunday that it helped to buy a lease for Jewish settlers in the Christian quarter of Arab Jerusalem.

The settlement, the first in the Christian quarter since Israel occupied the Old City in 1967, has sparked protests by Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

The 150 settlers who moved in April 11, two days before Good Friday, are fighting a legal battle with the Greek Orthodox Church which owns the building, St. John's Hospice near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

"The purchase of properties held by foreign owners in Israel in general and in Jerusalem specifically, including church properties, has been carried out for years by state bodies," said a

statement issued by a spokeswoman for right-wing Housing Minister David Levy.

"The size of the share is 3.6 million shekels (\$1.8 million), making up 40 per cent of the cost of the property."

The admission comes at an awkward time for Israel, which is requesting U.S. aid in building housing for thousands of Soviet Jews flooding Israel. Washington has cautioned Israel against increasing tension in Arab Jerusalem.

Despite continuous court efforts by the church to evict the Jewish settlers, there was no hint of a government role in the takeover of the building until Yossi Sarid, a member of parliament for the opposition Citizens Rights Movement, accused the

government over the weekend of secretly funding the purchase of the lease.

Court orders to evict the settlers have been halted by the supreme court until a further hearing Thursday.

The housing ministry said the purchase was carried out through Himuta, a quasi-governmental Israeli company involved in immigration and settlement. The settlers have said it was done privately.

According to Sarid, the government money was paid through a Panamanian front company to disguise its origin.

Police fired tear-gas Saturday at Palestinians demonstrating against the move into the hospice.

Disclosure of government

funding for the takeover of the 72-room building is bound to fuel complaints that hawks in the ruling Likud Party are taking advantage of government chaos to fund controversial projects.

Settlement had been limited under a Labour-Likud coalition government that collapsed last month. Labour Party leader Shimon Peres was finance minister, refusing funds for new settlements.

Plans have also been announced for new Jewish construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The housing ministry said the purchase of the lease in the Old City had been approved by finance ministry, now headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Levy's Likud Party.

Iraqi Air Force to retaliate against any Israeli attack

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's air force is under orders to attack Israel if it strikes at Iraq or any other Arab state, the force's commander said Sunday.

"Our rockets and planes can reach Israel... and we have orders to attack Israel if it attacks Iraq or any other Arab state," Air Vice-Marshal Mozhaim Sa'ab Hassan told Baghdad's Saut Al-Jamahir (Voice of the Masses) Radio.

The commander of the air force and air defence, speaking on the 59th anniversary of the founding of the air force, said Iraq proved its might during the eight-year war with Iran "when our jets hit targets deep inside Iran, twice as far as any spot in Israel."

The Iran-Iraq conflict ended in a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988.

Baghdad Radio this month said President Saddam Hussein told a U.S. Senate team he had authorised Iraqi field commanders to attack without further orders if it used nuclear weapons to attack Iraq.

The air force commander made no reference to the Jewish state using nuclear weapons before Iraq would retaliate.

Hussein said early this month that Baghdad had binary chemical weapons and would "burn half of Israel" if it attacked Iraq.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Nizar Hamdoun Saturday summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires and demanded an explanation for a flight Baghdad said was made by a U.S. AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) plane in Turkish airspace near the Iraqi border.

Hamdoun asked the U.S. diplomat to explain the presence of

the plane — a flying radar station and command post — in the area earlier this month.

Iraq's relation with the United States and Britain cooled last month when London said it foiled an attempt to smuggle to Iraq U.S. parts that could be used as nuclear triggers.

Iraq said the parts were electrical capacitors used for many industrial, scientific and engineering purposes including laser research.

Britain has also seized metal tubing which it says Baghdad planned to use to build a giant gun able to fire chemical or nuclear missiles. Iraq says the tubes are for a petro-chemical project.

Israeli warplanes destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad in 1981. The Jewish state refuses to say whether it has nuclear arms but is widely thought to possess them.

In an interview with the weekly army magazine Hurra Al Watan, the Iraqi Air Force commander said: "We shall not hesitate to destroy any target inside Israel... We will not allow the enemy to score any strike."

Asked whether Iraq now made its own warplanes, Hassan said: "Apart from modernisation of the Iraqi Air Force, we have actually started to produce and manufacture aircraft. It is in its preliminary stages."

Industry and Military Industrialisation Minister Hussein Kamel told reporters last year that Iraq had been negotiating with the Soviet Union and France

to buy military aircraft and also make some in Iraq. Iraqi Soviet-MIG fighters and French-made Mirage jets helped give Baghdad air superiority over Iran in the Gulf war.

Iraq tests 'super-gun'

In London, a British newspaper reported Sunday that Iraq test-fired a "super-gun" prototype last summer made with parts supplied by British companies that are at the centre of an investigation. The gun blew up when fired.

The Observer newspaper added that despite the failure the Iraqi project, known as "Project Babylon," was advancing and needed only some technical work and the design of appropriate missiles.

Technical experts have concluded that the project consisted of three guns, including two 350mm prototype and a 1-metre diameter gun. Each of the prototypes was believed to cost £20 million (\$12.5 million), the Observer reported.

The biggest of the guns would have had a range of 900 miles and would have been theoretically capable of firing shells containing nuclear weapons.

The British companies Sheffield Forgemasters and Walter Sommers Ltd. have been identified as providing tubes and seals for the project.

The Observer reported that companies and individuals in Italy, Spain and Switzerland were also involved. The newspaper provided no details.

The newspaper interviewed some of the draftsmen and technical experts recruited in Britain to work on the project. The men that Iraq already had constructed a gun with a barrel measuring

about 20 metres, the Observer reported.

Customs officials said the seizure of trucks in Greece and Turkey foiled the delivery to Iraq of two guns, but the third had been delivered.

The Sunday Times reported that gun was test-fired at a mountain range in northern Iraq in August. The newspaper said the gun barrel exploded, but that the failure was regarded as a minor setback to the project.

Meanwhile in Greece, British driver Paul Ashwell, charged with illegally transporting military hardware for Iraq, was jailed Sunday pending trial.

Ashwell, 25, from Northampton, was arrested Thursday by customs police in this western port city. His truck and 29.5 ton cargo were confiscated on April 11 when he arrived by ferry from Brindisi in southern Italy.

Investigating magistrate Giorgos Efthathiou ordered Ashwell held in custody pending his trial because officials feared he might leave the country if he was released on bail.

Meanwhile, Greek military officials at a nearby camp where the 5.2-metre-long cylinder with a 350 millimetre bore was moved under guard Saturday, said Britain has asked that it be returned.

Speculations were rife that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, may have tipped off officials in Britain, Greece and Turkey that the giant tubes were destined for Iraq and could be war material.

The respected Athens newspaper, To Vima of Sunday, said that "according to information available to the paper, Mossad informed Greek officials of the existence of the components at Patras and its final destination."



Allied forces bombard Turkish troops at Gallipoli in 1915

Turkey, former foes to mark Gallipoli anniversary

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and its former foes join forces at Gallipoli Wednesday to mark the 75th anniversary of an epic World War II battle that raged for eight months and brought death to thousands of men in hand-to-hand fighting.

Warships and army bands will provide a backdrop to solemn ceremonies attended by veterans, generals, admirals, Turkey's president, the prime ministers of Australia and Britain and senior representatives of New Zealand, Canada and France.

It will be the first joint Gallipoli gathering since allied forces retreated in January 1916 after the eight-month battle often seen as the crucible of nationhood for the then emergent nations of Australia and New Zealand.

For most of the veterans, all aged over 90 and including an Australian celebrating his 103rd birthday, it will be farewell to a place whose name has seared the hearts of generations.

For Turkey, it was a victory against all odds that saw the rise of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the Turkish Republic from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire in 1923.

Accounts of the battle range over gallantry, fear and poor British leadership under generals

whose knowledge of Ottoman Turkey's army was based on intelligence reports of 1904.

Australian army Captain G.D. Mitchell wrote in his diary on April 25, 1915: "klock-klock-kloc, wee-wee-wee" came the little messengers of death. Then it opened out into a terrific chorus. The key was being turned in the lock of hell."

Mitchell was among Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) troops who staged a dawn landing that day at a small cove before a major allied assault at Cape Helles to the south.

"I was near ANZAC cove. One morning we saw irregular things at sea and let our commander know. Then the fighting started," Turkish veteran Adil Sahin, 93, told Reuters recently.

"I will attend all the ceremonies. I want to see and hug the veterans from other countries. There is no war, there is peace," he said at his mudbrick home, within sight of ANZAC cove.

The commemoration will start at dawn when Bob Hawke, the first Australian prime minister to visit Turkey, leads a service at a cemetery where some of Australia's 8,000 dead are buried.

Hawke, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, New Zealand Governor-General Sir Paul

Reeves and officials will attend a ceremony at Turkey's towering Martyr's Monument.

Each country will hold separate ceremonies at places such as Cape Helles, Lone Pine and Chunuk Bayir, where New Zealand troops fought to within sight of their objective — the Dardanelles waterway — before British troops lost the heights.

The allied plan was to force the Dardanelles separating Europe and Asia, take Istanbul, 240 kilometres northeast, and knock Turkey, then siding with Germany, out of the war.

Thatcher's team is likely to include Winston Churchill, grandson of Britain's World War I leader who, as first lord of the admiralty in 1915, helped to conceive the plan.

Some 44,000 allied soldiers were killed on the narrow peninsula or died of disease. They included more than 21,000 British and some 10,000 French and French colonial soldiers.

Nearly 87,000 Turks were officially reported killed in the fighting, which involved some 500,000 soldiers on each side. Unofficial estimates put Turkish deaths at up to 250,000.

Turkey is imposing tight security on the southern 30-kilometre

tip of the peninsula, dotted with 31 large stone memorials sprouting from the now forested battle site.

In between services, Thatcher will have talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Hawke, who will meet both Ozal and Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut in Ankara Monday.

Turkey marks the campaign every year on March 18, the day in 1915 when its guns savaged a British and French naval fleet that tried to force the Dardanelles.

According to a Turkish magazine article published in 1979, divisional commander Mustafa Kemal Ataturk told his troops after the first seaborne landings: "I am not ordering you to attack but ordering you to die."

Reeves arrives

New Zealand's Governor-General arrived in Turkey Sunday to attend the ceremonies. Turkish President Turgut Ozal met Reeves at Ankara airport.

Reeves, who is accompanied by senior military officials, will go to Istanbul Monday and sail to the Gallipoli peninsula a day later.

Antigua to seek extradition of Israeli

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — The government of Antigua and Barbuda says it will attempt to extradite an Israeli citizen allegedly involved in relaying a 1989 arms shipment that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers.

Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr. announced the government's intentions regarding Morris Safadi Friday in a speech broadcast on radio and television throughout the two-island nation.

Safadi operated a melon farm in eastern Antigua but sold it two years ago. He is rumoured to be in the United States or Israel, although Bird did not elaborate on extradition plans or discuss his whereabouts.

Safadi is suspected of helping to negotiate a deal involving the shipment of Israeli arms, allegedly including rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-aircraft weapons and automatic firearms.

The weapons were shipped from Haifa, to an Antigua port and then shipped to Santa Marta, Colombia, according to a preliminary investigation conducted by a special government-appointed committee.

The arms were discovered by Colombian authorities on the property of reputed drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

The prime minister said there were "irregularities and breeches" of customs regulations in the handling of the shipment in Antigua last April.

Last Monday, Bird said documents were falsified and customs procedures ignored to facilitate passage. On Friday, however, Bird said

Bush statement disappoints Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey expressed disappointment Saturday over a statement by U.S. President George Bush that 1 million Armenians were killed in "terrible massacres" by the Turks from 1915 to 1923.

President Turgut Ozal's spokesman said that Bush's "unfortunate statement" was apparently made to gain political favour with some Americans. Ozal viewed the remark with regret, he said.

Spokesman Kaya Toperci said Bush's words were in contradiction with the spirit of developing bilateral relations. Bush said in a statement issued during a visit to Orlando, Florida, Friday that he joined with Armenians and others who will observe April 24 as a day of remembrance.

Bush said that through their

history, the Armenians have shown strength in the face of numerous tragedies.

"Those tragedies include... most prominently, the terrible massacres suffered in 1915-1923 at the hands of the rulers of the Ottoman Empire," Bush said.

"My comments of June 1988 represent the depth of my feeling for the Armenian people and the suffering they have endured," Bush added.

In 1988, as candidate for president, Bush referred to the killings as a "genocide."

As president, Bush has refrained from using the term out of sensitivity toward Turkey, a NATO ally.

The U.S. embassy here issued a statement Saturday in an apparent effort to lessen any offence caused by Bush's remarks.

It said the U.S. government had made clear to Turkey that Bush's statement was directed solely to events during the Ottoman Empire and was no reflection on the Turkish Republic.

The two countries came to the brink of a diplomatic crisis last year as a result of a U.S. Senate resolution which would designate April 24 as "national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923."

Turkey imposed sanctions on the United States after the resolution cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee last October. Turkey barred some training flights by U.S. Air Force planes, halted improvements at a dozen U.S. military installations on Turkish soil and restricted port calls by U.S. ships.

Turkish-Cypriots vote for leader

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriots voted Sunday in a presidential election their leader Rauf Denkash said was a referendum on his hardline stance in unity talks with Greek Cypriots.

Polling booths opened at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT) in bright sunny weather, with just over 100,000 of the 160,000 people in Northern Cyprus eligible to vote.

Denkash, a 66-year-old London-trained lawyer, wound

up a confident campaign for reelection with a pledge Saturday that he would not stand again.

A wily political survivor, he has led the Turkish-Cypriots community since Cyprus won independence from Britain in 1960. He won 70.4 per cent of the vote in 1985 in the first election for the five-year presidency in the breakaway "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," proclaimed two years earlier.

Cyprus has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion that followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling in Athens.

Denkash's uncompromising stand on unity talks with Cypriot President George Vassiliou, leader of the 600,000-strong Greek-Cypriot community, has drawn fire from his main contender in Sunday's voting, veteran politician Ismail Bozkurt, 50.

Algerian opposition parties plan march

ALGIERS (R) — Four Algerian opposition parties, alarmed by the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, called Sunday for a march in the capital next month to support the country's emerging democracy.

The parties also said they would cooperate with each other as a third force in Algerian politics, increasingly polarised be-

tween the fundamentalists and the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

"Algeria is passing through a critical phase full of danger for democracy," said a joint statement by the Communist Vanguard Socialist Party (PAOS), the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Berber-dominated Rally for Culture and Democracy

(RCD) and the centre-right Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal.

"Democratic forces must throw all their weight behind the aspirations of our people for social justice, the protection of individual and collective freedoms and human rights," the statement said, calling for a pro-democracy rally on May 8.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt gets 1st batch of U.S. tanks

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — The first batch of 700 U.S.-made M60A1 tanks arrived in this Mediterranean port Sunday. Maj. Gen. Mohammed Farouk Mustafa said. Mustafa, an assistant to the defence minister, said the tanks were a gift from the U.S. government to Egypt and were not part of the \$1.3 billion in military aid which the Middle Eastern country gets from Washington annually. He did not say how many arrived Sunday. Informed sources said around 150 had arrived and that the rest of the tanks would be arriving in Egypt before the end of the month. Mustafa said that the tanks would immediately enter the armed forces and would enhance its ability.

Qadhafi urges Arabs to develop bomb

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi has called on Arabs to develop a "deterrent force" including nuclear bombs in the next 20 years, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) reported. Qadhafi said that if Libya had possessed powerful enough weapons, it would not have been attacked by the United States in 1986. "If we had a deterrent force of missiles able to reach New York we would have directed them at that very moment against it," Qadhafi was quoted as saying in a JANA dispatch monitored in Rome. "We therefore must have this force so that the Americans and others would not think to attack us once again."

Turkish troops clash with rebels; 7 die

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Six rebel Kurds and one Turkish soldier were killed in a clash in southeastern Turkey, officials said Sunday. The clash between a military patrol and rebels of the

separatist Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) lasted several hours Saturday near Sirnak town, about 40 kilometres north of the Iraqi border, they said. More than 2,000 people have been killed since the outlawed PKK launched a campaign for Kurdish independence in southeast Turkey in 1984.

Afghan rebels shoot down another plane

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan rebels said Sunday they had shot down two government transport planes in two days over the besieged garrison town of Khost. Rebel sources said the second plane was shot down Saturday night as the Soviet-backed Afghan government reinforced the eastern town for a possible offensive. Two other transport planes were prevented from landing by rebel rocket and artillery fire, the Pakistan-based sources added. No independent confirmation was available. On Saturday, the sources said guerrilla rockets shot down a transport plane over Khost Friday night and destroyed another at the airfield the next morning, killing 14 people. The guerrillas have kept Khost cut off from the rest of the country for most of the 11-year-old guerrilla war. Supplies for the town are dropped by parachute when guerrilla fire makes it difficult for planes to land.

Iranian team leaves for Moscow

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian delegation left for Moscow Sunday to discuss the expansion of trade links with the Soviet Union, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. Mohammad Taqi Banki, deputy mines and metals minister and managing director of the National Iranian Steel Company, is heading the delegation. Iran and the Soviet Union have in the past year signed a series of agreements covering economic and scientific cooperation up to the year 2,000.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:00 World News
16:05 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:35 French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Perfect Strangers
21:10 FIFA Soccer
22:30 News in English
23:00 Tulsida

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
07:30 (Sunrise)
11:34 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
18:15 Maghreb
19:38 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Assiatic Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assiatic International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Mia./Max. temp.
Amman 9 / 29
Aqaba 20 / 33
Deserts 9 / 30
Jordan Valley 18 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 30, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Musa Bashir 615487
Dr. Mohammad Al Awd 741391
Dr. Adel Ammani 812148
Dr. Walid Sawahneh 779997
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778236
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Saitan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Samsirani pharmacy 637660
ERBID:
Dr. Adel Hattatleh (—)
Al Sharan pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Ju'isim (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescuers 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rouge Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775123
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 845845
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 651176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdel Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 551615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Munasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdal 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdal 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajreh 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/5
Army, Marik 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09991071
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
ERBID:
Princess Banna Hospital 02275535
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02274710
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03931411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Santa (RJ)
09:00 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 Istanbul (RJ)
10:00 Tunis (RJ)
10:00 London (RJ)
10:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:30 Baghdad (IA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Tunis (add.) (RJ)
11:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:45 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Kuwait (RJ)
13:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
13:00 Jeddah (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
13:00 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
13:00 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
13:00 Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 Tunis (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:00 Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:30 Baghdad (IA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 Beirut (ME)
08:00 Baghdad (IA)
10:10 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:35 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Bucharest (RO)
13:00 Kuwait (KU)
13:45 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
13:30 Baghdad (AF)
08:25 Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.

Almonds 1000 / 800
Apples 480 / 440
Bananas 450 / 400
Banana (Makassar) 400 / 350
Beans 450 / 400
Broad beans 250 / 200
Cabbages 90 / 60
Carrots 140 / 100
Cauliflowers 280 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 300 / 2



A scene of the shops gutted in a fire in Zarqa Sunday (Jordan Times photo)

At least 1 killed in Zarqa fire

ZARQA (J.T.) — A man was killed in a fire which engulfed a grocery and bazaar shop in King Abdullah street here.

In a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki said that as a result of the blaze and smoke resulting from it, the wall separating the shop from a neighbouring household utensils shop was demolished, thus helping fire to spread to the neighbouring shop and to destroy it.

Initial investigations found that the grocery was exposed to a robbery attempt before the fire broke out, because the shop's locks were found removed. Police and Civil Defence teams rushed to the scene, extinguished the fire, and evacuated the casualty.

Other reports circulating in Zarqa suggested that two people rather than one were killed in the blaze. The reports, however, could not be confirmed immediately.

Conference to boost image of nursing

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) is going ahead with plans to hold the first Middle East conference on facets of nursing which will open on May 12 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to the dean of the Nursing College Dr. Naji Najeeb.

Najeeb told the Jordan Times Sunday that at least 200 participants, mostly male and female nurses and specialists in the profession would take part in the two-day conference which would focus attention on the shortage of nurses in Jordan and means of improving the quality of the nursing profession by enhancing the image of nursing in the country.

Najeeb said at least 40 working papers will be reviewed by the participants who include delegates from the four Jordanian universities as well as three lecturers from Egypt, England and the United States.

Najih said the conference would examine historical, cross-cultural perspective and current popular images of nursing; it would explore the role of the mass media in shaping the image of nursing, as well as the recruitment of nurses.

The conference organisers believe that enhancing the perception of nursing as a valuable career and raising the awareness

of the contribution of nurses to health-care will improve the recruitment and help keep nurses in their jobs.

Najeeb said the working papers would be presented by delegates from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Jordan and the United Kingdom, Canada and the USA.

Among those attended there will be nurse educators, nursing students, midwives, physicians, and other health care providers.

The president of the Jordanian Nursing Association (JNA) said last January that qualified Jordanian nurses were leaving the country for the Gulf region to earn better salaries and the situation was gradually worsening and nearing the "red line" at Jordanian hospitals.

Hassem Salameh said in a statement quoted by the local press that each nurse costs JD 100 a month in terms of training and accommodation and when they go abroad the country suffers both financially and professionally.

The Ministry of Health last April announced that Jordan had a total of 2,210 female nurses of whom 574 were non-Jordanians and that the Kingdom was in need of at least 4,000 nurses by the year 2000.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday takes part in Earth Day celebrations (Petra photo)

Jordan marks Earth Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday marked Earth Day with various functions designed to enhance public awareness for the need to protect the environment and safeguard natural wealth.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein took part in these activities and made a statement to Jordan Television in which she voiced hope that Jordanian institutions would be able to spread awareness for the need for greater efforts to protect the earth and its atmosphere.

The Queen said the school shoulders a major responsibility in spreading awareness about the environment, and therefore school textbooks should contain ample information about means of protecting the environment from pollution and ways to safeguard nature for the coming generations.

Queen Noor took active part in

collecting waste plastic products from the streets and public squares in Amman along with schools students involved in this task as part of the clean-up campaign organised by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Later the Queen visited the RSCN's offices in Amman and was briefed by the society's head of the follow-up and information committee, Laila Sharaf, on Jordan's programmes on Earth Day in various parts of the country, and the society's role and activities during the Jordanian environment year which started Sunday.

The King's children, princes Hamzeh and Hashem and Princesses Eiman and Raya were among thousands of children who took part in Earth Day activities Sunday; the activities involved collecting rubbish and planting trees at Yajouz, near Amman.

Reports from various areas gave details about activities conducted by school students, scouts and representatives of various organisations marking Earth Day and the start of the Jordanian environment year.

At the Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation, Minister of Telecommunications and Transport Ibrahim Ayoub opened a stamps exhibition.

The three-day exhibition displays Jordanian stamps since the creation of the Emirate of Transjordan and other rare stamp collections.

Corporation Director Abdullah Al Jazi said a new set of stamps was issued Sunday and was included in the exhibition. The new stamps, he said, entitled "Nature in Jordan" depict various aspects of the Jordanian natural scenery.

New format family books, passports to be issued

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Affairs and Passports Department has made plans for issuing new forms of passports and family books in the second half of the coming month, but the documents already with the public will remain valid until their expiry, according to an announcement by the department director Issa Al Omari.

Omari told a press conference that the new passports would be smaller in size, measuring 12.5 centimetres by 9 centimetres, but pages would increase to 60 up from 40 in the previous form.

"The new passports will enable their holders especially those who travel a great deal to use them for a longer period of time," he said.

"But no extra fees have been imposed for acquiring the new passports or the family books,

which will remain the same," he added.

Normally a fee of JD 2 is required for obtaining a family book and JD 20 is paid in fees for a passport; the former will serve for 10 years the latter for five years.

Omari said, unlike the previous arrangement, each adult would have to obtain a separate passport and under no circumstance would the wife be included in her husband's passport; the children will be included in their parents' passports until the age of 15.

He also said that the new passport will carry the name of the holder without any mention of any titles, if so desired, and that women can have their names written without any reference to their marital status, and can have their names related to their parents only if they so require.

Omari said the family book would also be smaller in size and have 18 rather than 16 pages. It will contain more detailed information and instructions benefiting the holder.

"For the first time, the family book has been printed in Jordan with excellent result, thus saving a great deal of foreign currency which would have otherwise been spent on publication abroad," Omari said.

As to the special passports, which are normally issued to Parliament members, diplomats, ministers and senior officials, they will keep the same form for the time being because the department has a large stock of them," he said.

"Over the past three months, the department witnessed an in-

flux of citizens wishing to obtain passports or family books, and this can be attributed to new liberalisation policies adopted by the government which has eased security restrictions on persons wishing to obtain official documents like passports and family books," Omari pointed out.

In the coming summer, he said, the department is expecting a noticeable increase in the number of persons applying for passports and family books or for their renewal, and for this reason, special arrangements are being taken, including the extension of office hours, to cope with the expected increase of the workload.

Referring to the civil affairs offices in the provinces, Omari said they would function normal-

ly, processing applications and passing them on to the main towns for issuing the official documents.

He said that transforming these branches into fully-fledged offices to issue passports and family books require large funds and larger premises which are not available at present.

Omari said that the Civil Affairs and Passports Department, which used to serve as separate offices, came into being after a merger in 1988, with the purpose of facilitating work and saving time and trouble for the citizens.

At present the department handles nearly three million files; it intends to feed them into a computer which will be duly installed to make matters even easier for everyone," he said.

Arar stresses importance of forming political parties

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Sunday called for strengthening the democratic march, saying it is a means for achieving our objectives of unity, liberation and development.

Addressing students from Yarmouk University, who visited him at his office, Arar said that agreement among all the intellectual and political currents in Jordan was great and should therefore be capitalised on, rather than trying to address the petty differences at this stage.

Arar pointed out the importance of the formation of political parties if political life were to be flourishing, and called for surpassing differences so that "we can face up to the challenges and dangers threatening us."

Arar said Jordan, despite its limited resources and the current economic crisis it is going through, has never succumbed to external pressures aimed at forcing it to sell out the Arab rights in Palestine.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Arar said they were excellent and very strong, in view of the common destiny and interests.

Arar called for supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories with all means to ensure its continuity. He pointed out to the pan-Arab efforts to secure reconciliation between the two sister Arab countries, Iraq and Syria and noted in particular Jordan's efforts in this regard.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Jumaa family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zaid to take part in the funeral of the late Madhat Jumaa and to convey his condolences to Jumaa family.

Inter-faith panel condemns Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic-Christian Commission for Defending Jerusalem Sunday sent cables to the grand shaykh of Azhar University in Cairo, the secretary-general of the Mecca-based League of Islamic World, His Holiness Pope John Paul II and the Athens-based Greek Orthodox patriarch, condemning the attack on Patriarch Diodoros and several Christian clergymen in Jerusalem. In its cables, the commission called for exposing and condemning Zionist practices against the holy places in Jerusalem and stressed the need for ensuring the freedom of practising religious rites in Jerusalem.

Eid Al Fitr set for Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — Meteorology Department Secretary-General Ali Abanda said Sunday that Thursday, April 26 will be the first day of Shawwal and the first day of Eid Al Fitr, according to astronomical calculations based on the moon's position in alignment with the Sun and the Earth.

Governor stresses need for public survey

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Sunday discussed with provincial governors and directors of public works and agriculture departments in Amman, issues pertaining to the construction of agricultural roads, Earth Day, unemployment and poverty pockets. Amin stressed the need for undertaking a comprehensive survey to define the needs and demands of citizens. The survey will help set priorities and provide services to the various parts of the governorate.

Funds allocated for building roads in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh Sunday said the ministry has allocated JD 479,000 for the construction of village roads in the Irbid governorate, and JD 300,000 for constructing agricultural roads. At a meeting held here Sunday, Rawabdeh reviewed the ministry's present and future projects in Irbid governorate. The meeting was attended by the ministry's secretary-general, Irbid governor and deputies from Irbid governorate, in addition to several officials from various government departments.

MAP sponsors fund-raising march

AMMAN (J.T.) — Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) will organise a sponsored walk May 11, 1990 to start from Jordan Intercontinental Hotel and finish in Khirbet Abu Jaber, some 22 kilometres from Amman, an effort to raise funds to support MAP's medical projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The walk is part of a series of fund-raising events which will be carried out during May. The events include a lecture by Swee Chai Ang, May 10, a dinner to be held May 12th at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Honorary President of Amman chapter of MAP, and a raffle.

MAP was established in London in 1974 by British and Arab personalities. The society began its actual work in 1984 in Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Zaben tours south, hears demands

MAAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben Sunday made inspection tours in the southern regions of the Kingdom, visiting Shobak and Wadi Mousa in the Maan governorate.

Zaben heard requests from the local people for health services and inspected medical centres in the area.

"The Ministry of Health will give more attention from now on to the establishment of integrated health centres in villages rather

than setting up small clinics which do not offer full services," the minister said during a stop at Wadi Mousa.

He said the Ministry of Health would open a first aid and emergency centre in Wadi Mousa before May 15, and noted that all health centres around the country have been supplied with their needs of medicine, but dispensing medicine is normally determined by the density of population and the number of patients receiving treatment.

Zaben first visited the health centre at Shobak and was briefed by Parliament member Yousef Al Azem and the Shobak mayor on the general medical situation and the need for increasing specialists and opening a mother and child care centre.

Wadi Mousa mayor and local officials presented the minister with requests which included, among other things, the creation of an X-ray unit and new medical equipment.

New rules for refrigerated trucks

AMMAN (Petra) — New regulations by the Ministry of Transport issued Sunday prohibit foreign-registered refrigerated trucks from carrying goods from Aqaba port or other locations in Jordan to destinations abroad without prior approval from the ministry.

A statement, detailing the regulations said that trucks from the four-member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) are to be exempted from the ban.

According to the regulations, foreign-registered refrigerated trucks can cross into and out of Jordanian territory provided they are in transit, and follow normal procedures governing such operations.

The statement said that Jordanian refrigerated trucks would be allowed to leave Jordanian territory through border posts whether loaded or unloaded in accordance with the normal sets of regulations.

The regulations are to go into effect April 25, 1990.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Sunday presents the Most Reverend Archbishop Carlos Curis, the outgoing apostolic delegate to Jordan, with the Independence Medal of the First Order awarded to him by His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

Jordan honours outgoing envoy from the Vatican

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Sunday the apostolic delegate of the Holy See in Jordan the Most Reverend Archbishop Carlos Curis who is ending his tour of duty in Jordan. Earlier Sunday, Curis received the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order conferred on him by His Majesty the King. The photograph shows the medal being presented to the Jerusalem-based Archbishop by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem at a brief ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The archbishop has served in his post since February 1984.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of Earth Day stamp collection at the Postal Savings Corporation.

FILM

★ French film entitled "Les Perles de la Couronne" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

جوردان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة نشرها للصحافة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Back on the map

FINANCIAL sources in the Arab World speak of no less than \$700 billion worth of Arab investments in non-Arab countries. This most unfortunate phenomenon suggests first and foremost that Arab capital is casting a vote of no confidence in the Arab homeland. To be sure, such a negative posture cannot be rectified by a magic wand as its root causes are multi-dimensional. To begin with, the lack of stability in the Arab World, both political and economic, is due to the lack of developed democracy in the Arab Order. The correlation between operational democracy on the one hand and political and economic stability on the other has been demonstrated time and again. The sooner that the Arab Nation makes additional meaningful strides in the direction of viable democracy, the quicker the Arab World would be in a position to recover most of the drained capital. What can accelerate the recovery of Arab capital is the economic fact that the returns on investment within the Arab countries are much higher than those in foreign lands, provided, of course, the Arab capitalists can regain their faith and confidence in their own countries. Suffice it to recall in this context that the tax structures in the Arab World at large are so favourable to investment in comparison with the taxation systems in the developed world.

Needless to point out that the repatriation of Arab capital to Arab industries and businesses would immediately revolutionise the entire Arab economy and transform it into an economic and fiscal giant on par with the other major blocs of economic power in the world. If and when this happens, the Arab bargaining position vis-a-vis the rest of the world would become indeed formidable. At that point in time the resolution of the Arab conflicts with the outside world would become imminent. This is not to mention the resolution of intra-Arab disputes which have sapped Arab energy and resources for too long. Then and only then can the Arabs put themselves where they rightly belong on the economic and political map of the civilised world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

It is difficult to separate the concept of earth day from its political dimension, because it is rather hard to imagine people properly protecting the world's environment while the major powers of the world maintain nuclear, biological and chemical arsenals, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. It said that Israel's nuclear arsenal, its uprooting of Arab people and their homes and trees pose a grave danger to the environment which people around the world are trying to protect. Israel's endangering of the environment follows a similar pattern by the rich industrialised nations' actions vis-a-vis the Third World which continues to suffer from hunger, disease and backwardness, said the daily. It noted that the rich nations in the Northern Hemisphere bear a greater measure of responsibility towards the protection of the world's environment than the poor countries whose means are limited and whose actions do not cause as much damage. All people of the world are partners in the process of protecting the environment, but the aggressors and the rich are in a better position to provide such protection, the paper noted. It said that regardless of social systems, political regimes and nationalities all people young or old are bound to provide such protection to the planet earth provided that peace based on justice prevails because it is the best guarantee for any positive and constructive action.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily praises Damascus for securing the release of one of the American hostages after prolonged negotiations and contacts with Iran which is responsible for the action of extremist groups which hold the innocent victims. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the release of the hostages expected Sunday ushers in the prospect of ending the ordeal of all victims held in Lebanon regardless of their nationalities and the actions of their governments against the interests of the Arab World, simply because this release can clear the image of the Arabs and the Muslims, and can render Israel's hostile campaign against the Arabs futile. The writer notes however, that as the world in general and the American families in particular are happy about the release, thousands of Palestinians are being detained not only in Israeli jails but in Syrian prisons due largely to differences between Damascus and the PLO. Rimawi says that Damascus ought to take a positive step now and release these thousands of Palestinian fighters who are waging an uprising against Israeli forces in occupied Palestine. These detainees are Arabs, Palestinians and fighters for the Arab cause, and there is no point of keeping them behind bars with total black-out about their conditions and their fate, the writer notes. He says Palestinian fighters are in need of support and assistance rather than detention and imprisonment.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Sunday reflected on the need for an urgent summit meeting by Arab heads of state. It said that such summit was in the past thought to be futile as the Arabs were weak and incapable of standing up in the face of Israel and its threats. But now, said the paper, the Arabs proved to be capable of deterring Israel's aggression, there are still no clear signs that such a summit is imminent. The paper noted that the need for an Arab summit is great in view of the danger represented in the Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine and in the light of the persisting differences between Iraq and the PLO on the one hand and Syria on the other. Despite calls by most Arab countries for holding a summit, no practical steps have yet been taken to convene the meeting; and indeed some Arab states are tight-lipped and do not wish to reveal their intentions about it, the paper added. It said that the fast moving developments in the Arab region and in the international arena do not tolerate further procrastinations.

This farce must stop

By Ghassan Salameh

IMAGINE, my friend. Eight Arab foreign ministers fell over each other to become members of a delegation that was meant to visit the capitals of the world and alert it to the dangers of the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine. This issue, in the words of the ministers themselves, is "the gravest threat to the Palestinians since the State of Israel itself was created." Accordingly, appointments were arranged in Moscow, Dublin (current capital of the European trioka) and Washington. And on the eve of the first trip... it transpired none of the Arab foreign ministers could show up.

Imagine, my friend. We persuaded the Malaysians and Cubans to send their foreign ministers in person to the U.N. to support the Arab position when that same subject came up for discussion at the Security Council. What happened? None of the Arab foreign ministers could be bothered to go.

And yet 19 Arab foreign ministers, in all their glory, managed to withstand the arduous journey to Tunis last week. They engrossed themselves in prolonged and elaborate discussions, fraught with complications and vital implications, about what? About moving 400 employees of the Arab League secretariat from Tunis to Cairo. From an ugly building worthy of being converted into a parking lot in Khartoum, Pasha Street in Tunis, to one which would not be much prettier were it not for its magnificent Nile side location. They debated and engaged in heated exchanges about which of the staff should remain in Tunis and which should go to Cairo. About when the epoch-making decision would be officially announced (although everybody near and far knew all about the move well in advance). And about what bits of the League would move to glorious Cairo, and which minor parts could be left behind to keep little Tunis happy.

Yes, nineteen ministers put aside their concerns to discuss how the League's redundant drivers would be compensated, and which employees would be promoted. All this being a prelude to the opening of the bazaar and public auction at which all the top jobs will be haggled over, and the secretary-general's post debated in whispers.

What a truly momentous issue! They discussed and investigated, argued and formed

committees. But when the agenda moved on to the Soviet Jews and to wounded Lebanon, they remembered that they had left urgent business unattended in their own countries, and stampeded towards their planes back home. And when the truly important subjects came up for discussion, there was literally only one minister left. Out of our nineteen original heroes, only one remained in the chamber.

Let us be clear and honest. This is not "joint Arab action," nor the "Arab solidarity," we hear so much about, nor even an Arab League. The ball is unambiguously in the court of the Arab leaders. They can either remain immobile in their capitals, congratulating their foreign ministers for their intensive action, or they can shoulder their responsibilities immediately. They can get up, and within a week hold a summit meeting that must tackle at least three issues.

1. Lebanon: Let them ask themselves what each has done, within or outside the tripartite committee, to put into practice the task they took on at Casablanca. The killing, destruction and uprooting have not stopped in Lebanon, as any Arab who reads the newspapers will know.

2. Palestine: Let them grasp the implications of this massive influx, discuss what is going on within Israel, and what has happened to the American attitude to the conflict during the dramatic developments of the past few weeks. Where is it leading and how will they react?

3. Perhaps most important: Let them try to absorb the huge changes that are taking place under our noses in the international system, East and West and in Europe. Let them draw the conclusions vital to preserving Arab interests.

As for the Arab League headquarters, my friend, it really does not matter whether it is in Tunis, Cairo or Djibouti. Neither does it matter whether its staff are from the Mashreq or Maghreb. But for the instrument of joint Arab action (the League, that is) to become its members' sole concern, and for its running to be an end in itself, this is a scandal. It means that there are no Arab leaders left who care about anything other than the superficial, or worse still, that there are none left at all.

The article reprinted from the London-based Middle East International, is translated from the London-based Al Hayat daily.

Moroccan banker backs black economy

By Stephen Hughes
Reuters

RABAT — Omar Akalay, a chubby cigar-smoking Moroccan banker with a twinkle in his eye, is convinced that the black economy is good for developing countries.

What he calls the immersed or clandestine economy is "a powerful factor for individual social promotion, and at the same time an energetic way of absorbing unemployment."

Akalay, the 50-year-old president of the Casablanca Bank Societe Marocaine de depot et de credit, has unorthodox views.

He says galloping population growth is good for the Third World: "Population growth is a sign of life, the necessary condition of human progress."

In his book Un Regard sur l'Economie Marocaine (A Look at the Moroccan Economy) just published in Casablanca, he upsets established dogmas and challenges statistical certainties.

He does not refer to statistics in his book.

"Figures are supposed to make analyses scientific. To my mind this is not true... Among bankers we over talk figures, they are the bones, the skeleton. It is the flesh which is important," he writes.

In modern states when taxation becomes a heavy burden "the black economy is human nature's response to the fundamental injustice which is that the more one works the more one pays."

He gives several examples. Workers at a Moroccan furniture factory labour with their families at home during the night to make copies of armchairs produced by the plant. "It has to be said that their boss is also copying armchairs made in Europe."

A textile mill worker noticed that his employers imported ex-

pensive labels from Europe to sew on shirts and blouses. On vacation in France he bought a specialised sewing machine second-hand, dismantled it and hid it in the family baggage.

His family spent their nights making labels, which they sold to his boss for half the price of the imported product. Business boomed. He now supplies several other factories and employs dozens of people.

Akalay said large quantities of counterfeit goods are being made on the black economy, like famous-name perfumes, haute couture clothing and leather goods, and the brand owners are taking legal action.

He notes that the "illegal economy" or making cheap copies "has been one of the fundamental stimuli of European wealth."

Cartier of Paris sued five Moroccan leather craftsmen in 1985 for making copies of their famous baguette in burgundy red leather with the distinctive cartier monogram.

At first the local "Cartier" handbags, briefcases and wallets were shoddy imitations. Tourists refused to buy them. Then the backroom leather workers improved the quality until it was almost impossible to tell the difference.

"To make real counterfeit Cartiers, the craftsmen improved their techniques, used the highest quality leather. Their products began to sell like hot cakes, at less than half the price of the originals."

"It led to the renaissance of the Moroccan leather industry."

Weekly Political Pulse

National charter vs. Constitution, judiciary

THE debate on the projected national charter is indeed open-ended with the arguments for and against in abundance, proliferating with each passing day. The extent of the divide in the country over the charter may not be determined with precision until the time when the public will cast its vote on it one way or the other. Until then many "thinkers" will enter the fray to slug it out with their views and counter views. Why then do we have all this fuss about a document that has been predetermined to be less than the Constitution and less binding than an organic law of the land can only be attributed to various fears and anxieties held by many Jordanians. It is as if there is an ominous premonition entertained by the sceptics that the charter will usher in an

era of uncertainty and an endless debate.

In a way it is the fault of the champions of the charter for not crystallising better the rationale behind the entire exercise. That the raison d'etre of the proposed charter still lacks coherence in the juridical sense is beyond doubt. At a time when some of the arch promoters of the charter idea would suggest that the charter is intended to just elaborate or even explain the Constitution, others would counter that view by maintaining that only the Supreme Court has the jurisdiction to perform such a juridical function. In this vein, the Royal Commission itself must determine which authority will have the final say about whether any such added articulation of the constitution is in accordance with its letter

and spirit. There is no escape from adjudicating such legal disputes by the highest court of the land, and any attempt to bypass the judiciary in this matter would constitute a major setback to the orderly advancement of the country.

It goes without saying that the constitutionality of any legislation must be adjudicated in a qualified court of law. This has been the juridical precedent everywhere in the developed world. Accordingly, any Jordanian or a group of Jordanians affected by the national charter may submit a complaint to the Supreme Court claiming that the charter or any part thereof is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution and ask for a judgment declaring any measure or policy taken in further-

ance of that disputed charter or part of it as illegal. Since there is no constitutional court in the country and there is no legal consensus that the existing highest court of the land has jurisdiction to adjudicate constitutional issues, it would be imperative to incorporate in the projected national charter a provision for such probable adjudications.

In any case it is a big order for the 60 distinguished members of the Royal Commission to even attempt to interpret the Constitution much less to elaborate on it. Some of them are well versed in the legal profession but the majority are laymen with no legal knowledge on how to even begin the interpretation task. Perhaps this is where the membership of the Royal Commission is lacking professionally.

Dole responds to Republican criticism

USIA

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole answered his fellow Republicans' criticism of his stance on foreign aid to Israel and a Senate resolution on Jerusalem April 19 in a letter addressed to Representative Newt Gingrich, House Republican Whip.

Dole said the criticism was "directed at misquotes, quotes taken out of context, or inaccurate information." Representatives Gingrich, Vin Weber, Duncan Hunter and Bill McCollum sent Dole a letter April 19 stating their disagreement with recent statements made by the Republican leader "regarding our relationship to Israel."

The following are the text of the Dole letter responding to the criticism and the text of a telegram sent by Dole to occupied Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Dear Newt: I am writing in response to your letter of April 19, criticising statements I allegedly made about Israel.

Of course, you are free to hold whatever views you want about any issues. Normally, if I disagree with a fellow Republican, I speak to them privately about any problems, instead of holding a press conference. You and your friends have chosen the latter route — which of course you are free to do.

One thing you could have found out by talking to me is that your criticisms of my comments are largely directed at misquotes, quotes taken out of context, or inaccurate information.

In regard to my comments on Meet the Press concerning the Jerusalem Resolution, you are simply in error — I did not "express...support for the re-

peal" of the Resolution. You must either have misheard what I said, and failed to check your faulty recollection with the transcript, or accepted a second hand account of my remarks, without checking its accuracy.

In any event, what I did say was that I regarded senate passage of the Resolution — especially in the way that passage was achieved — as a mistake, and that I would have more to say about the subject. I had that "say" this morning, on the Senate Floor, and — to insure that, this time, you have an accurate version of my remarks — I enclose the text of that statement.

I also enclose for your information a copy of a telegram I sent this morning to Teddy Kollek, dealing with his comments on the Resolution to our Code. I invite you to check my version of events with any member of our delegation. I am confident they will confirm to you that Kollek said exactly what I have reported that he said in my subsequent remarks — and, further, that through staff he gave me specific authorisation to discuss his views in public.

Finally, I strongly urge you to look into the background to those alleged quotes in the Jerusalem Post before drawing any further spurious conclusions. The interview, scheduled to be broadcast on a cable TV show called Shalom America, has never aired. The reason it never aired is that the interviewer abruptly left the show, taking with her the tape and transcript of the interview. Her former producer now tells my office that they regard her as "not reliable." She is now in possession of the only copies of the tape, and obviously she is now "peddling" out-of-context

excerpts of the interview to any paper that wants to create a sensation. It is regrettable that her efforts fall on such susceptible ears as yours.

The interview took place in January, yet suddenly popped up in the Jerusalem Post three months later, on the very day of my arrival in Israel.

More specifically, the clear context of the interview was my assertion that the leaders of the pro-Israel lobby are short-sighted and selfish, in their zealous efforts to protect Israel's aid levels at any cost. No one who heard or read the entire interview — or who was fair and careful enough to take the time to make sure they were informed — would suggest, as you seem to, that I have made any personal or ethnic attacks on anyone or on the Jewish community. In fact, I noted with satisfaction, but not surprise, that nearly 60 per cent of American Jews recently polled by the Wall Street Journal supported my proposal to shave aid to Israel and other so-called "earmarked" countries by 5 per cent.

I have a 26 year record of strong support for Israel. I am proud of that record, and will match it against the record of any other member of Congress, including yours and that of your colleagues who joined you this morning. It speaks for itself. And it speaks clearly about by complete agreement with the words from the Republican Platform, which you quote. Unfortunately some people seem to think that, if you disagree with a single policy or practice of the Israeli government, or criticise anyone who lobbies on behalf of Israel, you should be characterised as "anti-Israel." That is bunk, and I am surprised that you have joined in the narrow

but shrill chorus of people who take that tack.

Sincerely yours,
(signed) BOB DOLE
United States Senate

P.S. Apparently you've forgotten your private words of praise for my proposal to cut foreign aid "earmarks" — which would have resulted in a 5 per cent cut for Israel. Or weren't those words for public consumption?

Telegram to Kollek

Dear Mr. Mayor: Thank you for your cable, received today, regarding the so-called Jerusalem Resolution which we discussed during our recent visit to Jerusalem.

As you will recall, you raised the Resolution with out delegation on your initiative; we did not ask you about it. Noting your strong personal support for the proposition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, you also said the resolution was ill-timed, because — by just stirring up controversy without really furthering the prospects of formal American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital — it served the interests only of extremists on both sides.

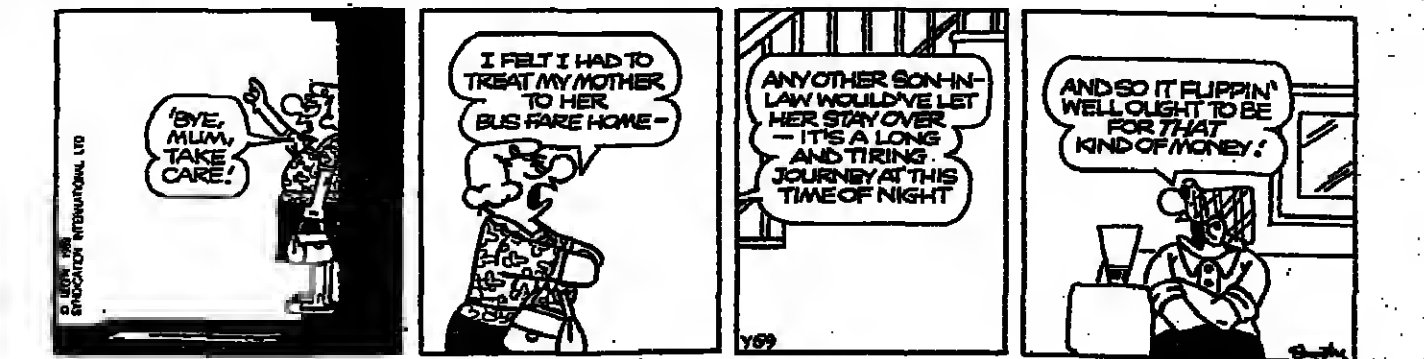
You further told us that you had spoken with Senator Moynihan about the resolution, urging him not to introduce it.

Finally, at the conclusion of the meeting, in response to a direct query from a member of my staff, you indicated you would be happy to be quoted as holding the above views — providing that they be quoted in their entirety, and specifically including the fact that you strongly held the view that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and strongly hoped the United States would so recognise it.

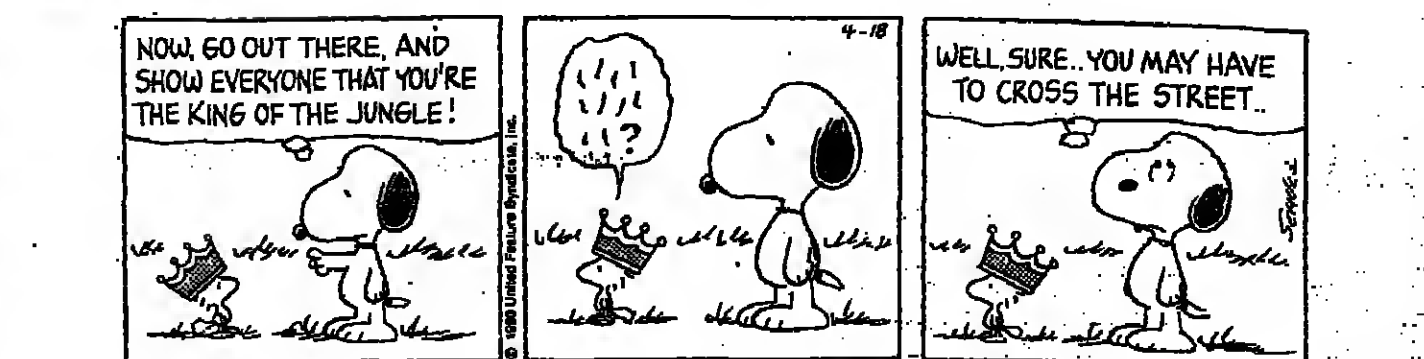
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts





Mae Ta Mee in Burma near the Thai border: Burmese students who fled there fight disease, deprivation and loneliness

Dark clouds gather over Burmese election

By Christophe Peschoux

RANGOON — On May 27 the people of Burma will go to the ballot box. For the first time in 28 years of almost exclusive military rule they will participate in multi-party elections. Or so the government has promised. However, 18 months after the army put a violent end to nationwide demonstrations, the government has made only token concessions to opposition demands for more civil freedoms and it continues to tighten its grip on power.

Most of the opposition has been silenced, either in prison or in exile. Many student leaders were killed during the democratic uprisings in the summer of 1988. In a country with almost no democratic traditions, there is a growing sense that the elections will be anything but fair unless the ruling junta — which calls itself the State Law and Order Restoration Council — does a complete about-face.

Once one of the most prosperous and dynamic countries in Southeast Asia, Burma has been bankrupted under a quarter-century of General Ne Win's military rule. In 1988 widespread food shortages, runaway inflation and political repression culminated in unprecedented demonstrations by a traditionally docile people. The spontaneous revolution attempt was brutally suppressed in September 1988, when thousands of demonstrators were massacred and martial law was declared.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the most popular opposition leader and the daughter of independence hero Aung San, said of the killings: "Do they think they can shoot people into working for them?" In February 1989 General Saw Maung, who had assumed power in September 1988, noted that "We must change the political system... and we must have an economic system that is in conformity with the political system." The junta's promise of serious reforms implied that it was ready to share power. However, the government has refused to give in to demands for more political freedom. The opposition groups now question the sincerity of the government's intentions and its promise of free and fair elections. Relations between the two groups have deteriorated over the past 18

months, reducing the chances for dialogue.

The military rulers, rumoured to be following the old dictator's Ne Win's orders, say that they will remain in power until a newly elected parliament approves a constitution and forms a new government. However, they appear to have made every effort to prevent the formation of a structured opposition that might win the elections. At the same time they have widely publicised their own party, the National Unity Party.

After the government allowed opposition parties to register for the elections, more than 230 organisations sprouted up around the country. People who had been deprived of freedom for decades seized the opportunity to gather and talk politics. Two major political groups were formed: The National League for Democracy (NLD) headed by Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, a retired general, and the League for Democracy and Peace headed by U Nu, Burma's prime minister from 1948 to 1962. The NLD, which poses the most serious threat to the National Unity Party, claimed to have more than 2 million supporters last year. The students who were the force behind the democratic uprisings were active in the Democratic Party for New Society.

Although opposition parties have been legalised, the authorities have severely restricted fundamental civil liberties, notably the rights of free speech and assembly: gatherings of more than four people are banned, and election campaign material is censored. Criticism of the military forces or of the ruling party is strictly prohibited. Anyone who violates the new laws is jailed. The government has also denied the opposition access to the state-controlled newspapers, radio and television.

When students and other activists tried to challenge the government's use of martial law and curtailment of civil liberties last year, hundreds were thrown in jail and major opposition party leaders were founded up. By the end of last year several thousand people had been detained and 27 demonstrators had been sentenced to death without the benefit of a trial, while reports surfaced of students being tortured in prison — four are known

to have died.

The government justifies its severe repression with claims that the opposition leaders and activists who were arrested were acting on behalf of left-wing, right-wing or foreign elements. The chief of military intelligence, General Khin Nyunt, warned against "party organisations, rightist forces, some diplomats, some foreign broadcasting stations, some foreign publications and anti-government forces outside the country who are carrying out both underground and above-ground activities using the students and simple and honest people."

There is a sense of "deja vu" about the campaign for the 1990 elections. In 1973, when the military rulers organised a national referendum to adopt a new constitution, they first took the precaution of throwing in jail several hundred people, mainly ethnic minority student leaders and others who were critical of the proposed constitution. Once the constitution was adopted, most of the detainees were released.

Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest in July 1989. In mid-January of this year the Burmese electoral commission disqualified her from running for office. In December 1989 her associate U Tin Oo was sentenced to three years of hard labour for "subversion," and former Prime Minister U Nu was placed under house arrest.

Another tactic used by the ruling junta to block political activity and new demonstrations before the elections is being implemented since late last year. It consists in forcing the migration of city dwellers to rural areas. More than 500,000 Burmese have already been moved to locations where there is no fresh water, sanitation or medical facilities. The areas are breeding grounds for malaria and hepatitis, and people are already dying for lack of medical care.

Under the circumstances it is no wonder that the Burmese people are deeply suspicious of the government's election promises. A student recently voiced this mistrust with bitter irony: "If they continue arresting people, there won't be anybody of significance left to vote for. What's the point, then, to hold free and fair elections?" — World News Link.

Crime, 'a Western plague,' sweeps Soviet Union

By Genevieve Abdo
Renters

MOSCOW — Tanya, a Moscow student in her twenties, was saved from a rapist late one night when passersby heard her screams and came running. Now her husband wants to take the law into his own hands.

"Women are all afraid now," said Tanya. "The crime is getting worse. My husband wants to buy a gun."

In the Soviet Union, where for decades crime was considered a product of capitalist societies only, reported criminal incidents increased by 32 per cent in 1989 compared with the previous year, according to the interior ministry.

In Moscow, rape increased 65 per cent during the first two months of this year, compared

with last year. Murders in the capital were up 25 per cent, and apartment robberies increased by 15 per cent.

Economic crimes also increased in Moscow, with fraud up 27 per cent.

And the crime wave shows no sign of easing. Investigators told Renters they were working on 14 per cent more cases in the first two months of this year, compared with 1989.

Reasons given by officials for the dramatic increase range from the democratisation of the Soviet Union to juvenile delinquency and more scrupulous reporting of crime.

"Society feels ill because of the increase in crime. But it's a general development of the democratic process," said General Alexei Bugaev, a criminologist

with the Interior Ministry, quoted in the liberal weekly Ogoniok.

Other experts have cited deeper causes for the rise in crime — a general atmosphere of instability in Soviet society that stems from the country's collapsing economy.

The instability has spurred social tension and some aberrant behaviour, including total disregard for the law, experts said.

Vadim Bakatin, the Soviet interior minister and a member of President Mikhail Gorbachev's newly-formed presidential council, said the chaos had led to disrespect for the law.

"Social tension has been caused by the inevitable recession in the economy in the course of perestroika," Bakatin wrote in a recent issue of Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper.

"Instability is defined by many

factors, including criminality," Bakatin wrote in an article concerning increasing crime in the Soviet Union.

The crime rate has reached such proportions that the Interior Ministry is calling on volunteers to enrol in a police academy and become militiamen.

The ministry has been allocated funds in 1990 for increasing the number of its investigators. Within two years, it will also be issued with more than 40,000 motor vehicles to be used throughout the country for crime-fighting purposes.

It previously received fewer than 5,000 vehicles a year.

A rape hotline to the police in Moscow has been created to help women in distress. Newspapers regularly publish reports of purse snatchings, apartment robberies

and murders.

A recent article in Komsomolskaya Pravda, the Communist Party youth newspaper, carried the tale of a crime that could have come straight from the pages of a New York City tabloid.

Two friends were waiting in a long queue at the liquor store when a stranger approached and tried to cut in front of them. An argument broke out and the stranger took out a German-made gun and killed one of the friends.

Ohe 64-year-old Muscovite, Lydia Marshenskova, said she believes there is more crime now

In Moscow, crimes committed by teenagers during the first two months of this year increased by 27 per cent over the same period last year, according to the Interior Ministry.

Khashoggi unfazed

NEW YORK (AP) — At 3 a.m., the telephone buzzes. Adnan Khashoggi awakes in his luxurious bedroom, 47 floors above Manhattan. The Saudi Arabian financier plugs the phone into a transmitter locked around his ankle, sends a signal and goes back to sleep.

Most people who deal in billions of dollars and hobnob with presidents and kings might think it demeaning to be monitored so. But Khashoggi seems amused by his nightly ritual that lets authorities check his whereabouts outside U.S. district court, where he is on trial with former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"I call it the government's wake-up service. It wakes me up in time for morning prayers," joked Khashoggi. Raising a pants leg to reveal the black, wristwatch-like gadget, he added: "When this (trial) is over, I might go into selling these things. This one, I am going to auction off — for charity."

It wouldn't be the first time "A.K.," as his intimates call him, found a business opportunity in an unexpected place. He has done that for years on his way to becoming one of the world's most famous citizens and, for a time, perhaps its richest.

Despite a series of business setbacks in recent years, Khashoggi is so wealthy that numbers are almost irrelevant. "Adnan would consider himself penniless if he was down to his last hundred million," says James Linn, his lawyer.

Khashoggi, 54, is vague about his current worth but doubts that he ever was the world's richest man.

His wealth may be best judged by his bail. He put up the required \$10 million, but authorities said it was small change to Khashoggi, and feared he would forfeit it for freedom. He was released from jail only after King Fahd of Saudi Arabia sent a letter guaranteeing that he would not attempt to flee.

In an interview at his lavish apartment, with its artworks by Dufy and Miro and its sweeping views of the city, Khashoggi described an investment portfolio that once ranged over 35 countries.

"In my heyday I used to earn \$80 million to \$100 million a year and probably spent, on this style of life, \$40 million," he said.

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Ruseifa residents protest

(Continued from page 1)

a few days ago by a number of women in the town who successfully blocked garbage trucks from entering the dumping site. Deputy Haj said the Greater Amman Municipality should study other areas that would be suitable for a dumping site. The Jordanian desert is so vast, it should not be difficult to solve our problem. It is such a big mistake to have such grounds in an area as close as 400 metres from residential districts," Haj said.

The crowd held up banners and shouted at the deputies for asking them to disperse peacefully after reassuring them that their demand will be met within one month.

"We have given the government a one-month deadline, May 22, to make a practical and official decision to remove the site elsewhere," the mayor said.

country used to come here for fresh air and picnics," Amman Deputy Fakhri Kassar said, adding that it was unjust for the area to have reached such a stage.

Addressing the crowd were deputies Bassam Haddadin, Mansour Murad, Mohammad Al Haj and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo, all of whom expressed solidarity with the people of Ruseifa in their call for clean and healthy air.

Omar Azzam, a resident from Ruseifa, told reporters that the government had promised a decent university for the Zarga area. "But we are surprised that it turned into a garbage dump. Thank you for this gift."

Inside the dumping grounds which was opened for the trucks after the crowd went home, the smell of garbage was overwhelming.

The official in charge of the site from the Greater Amman Municipality refused to make any comment to the press. "How do you like the smell?" asked one of the garbage men from Ruseifa. Pointing west, the man said: "Over there is Musa Ibrahim's house, and seven members of his family are now sick."

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Nigeria turmoil adds uncertainty to oil market outlook

DUBAI (Agencies) — Political turmoil in Nigeria, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), could throw new uncertainty into markets as the international oil cartel attempts to prop up sagging world crude prices, Gulf oil analysts say.

The announcement of a military coup Sunday, followed three hours later by a radio bulletin saying it had failed could send oil prices up or down when oil markets reopen Monday and the situation in Nigeria became clear, they said.

"The coup... sounds like a buck (dollar) a barrel rise," one Gulf based oil analyst said in first news of the turmoil in Nigeria.

... with reported clashes what will happen to oil exports is uncertain," he added.

Oil traders speculated that if Nigerian oil supplies to the market were cut only for a

week, the market supply pattern could change and prices could rise.

Nigerian officials who said they represented the peoples of the central and southern parts of the country announced they had deposed President Ibrahim Babangida. Radio Nigeria said.

Later, another senior officer said on the radio that the coup had been foiled. The radio then went dead.

Nigeria is a leading member of OPEC with an output in March of around 1.79 million barrels per day (BPD), according to a Reuters survey of the oil industry.

The populous African state's OPEC-assigned quota is 1.611 million BPD and its overproduction has contributed to the two million BPD excess over OPEC's self-imposed total ceiling of 22.086 million BPD which has sent oil prices sliding this year.

Most of Nigeria's oilfields

and export facilities are in the south of the country. It produces sweet types of crude, rich in petrol and containing little sulphur, which makes its oil popular with refiners in the West.

Oil exports supply 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign currency earnings.

The price of crude in world spot markets fell almost \$5 since January due to excess output by OPEC combined with seasonal weakness in demand.

Prices recovered around \$1 at the end of the last week after OPEC announced an emergency meeting on May 2 to discuss price weakness in the market. "The OPEC boys may have been saved again, with 10 days to go to the (May 2) meeting, the coup may push up the prices," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said if uncertainty in

Nigeria prevails until Monday, when world spot and futures markets open, most players will try to square their positions before the OPEC meeting.

"Everybody will be short-covering and that will push prices higher," another oil trader said.

New directors

Meanwhile the Nigerian oil ministry named new managing directors Saturday for Nigeria's National Petroleum Corporation and Liquefied Gas Company.

Sources said the move was aimed at solving a management crisis and restoring the confidence of foreign investors.

Oil Minister Jubril Aminu declined to answer questions about the recent slump in oil prices or to say what OPEC

countries members planned to do in reaction.

Aminu named T.J. John, former managing director of a petrochemical plant under construction in Port Harcourt, to direct the nation's petroleum corporation.

John replaces Aret Adams, who was suspended last year in a dispute over the appointment of senior officials. Aminu said Saturday that Adams' retirement had been approved by Babangida.

G.S. Ihetu was named managing director of the company created to handle production and sale of liquefied natural gas. It is a new post.

Aminu said he wanted to assure the chief foreign partners in the liquefied gas project — Shell, ELF and AGIP — the military government "is firmly committed to the LNG project and to abiding by the shareholders agreement signed with them."

'Asian economies' growth slowed sharply in 1989

MANILA (R) — The rapid expansion of Asia's economies slowed sharply last year but the region remained the world's most dynamic growth area, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its annual report.

The report, for release Monday, said the slowdown had helped put the economies of South Korea and Taiwan in particular onto a more sustainable long-term growth path.

But regional inflation continued to climb and unrest and political disputes adversely affected China and several South Asian countries.

Aggregate growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific fell to 5.3 per cent in 1989, down from a record 9.4 per cent the previous year, the Manila-based regional bank said.

The fall was partly because governments had dampened down growth to stop their economies overheating and check increasing infrastructure shortages, rising inflation and labour difficulties in some countries," it said.

In India, growth was slashed to

4.5 per cent last year, from a record 9.5 per cent in 1988, partly because of foreign exchange shortage curbed industrial imports.

The government slammed on the brakes in China, easing inflation and curbing a large trade deficit, but growth in real gross national product (GNP) fell sharply to 3.9 per cent in 1989 from 11.2 per cent, the ADB said.

Among the Asian tigers, infrastructure bottlenecks were severe in Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, the bank said.

GDP growth in Hong Kong and South Korea, at 2.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent, was around half the 1988 level, although Taiwan grew by 7.7 per cent against 6.8 per cent the previous year.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines faced power and transport shortages, rapid growth in Thailand strained an already inadequate infrastructure, while problems with port capacity, transport and communications appeared in Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Softening of commodity prices and reduced demand for manufactured goods in the indus-

trialised countries also contributed to the less robust growth," the 47-member bank said in the report prepared before its annual meeting, to be held in New Delhi May 24.

In contrast to earlier reliance on exporting to the rest of the world, Asian countries were trading more between themselves and had become the fastest-growing trading area in the world, it said.

This had been helped by increasing investment from Japan and Asia's newly industrialised economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Thailand, with GDP growth estimated by the ADB at 10.8 per cent in 1989, was one of the world's fastest growing economies, while successful policy reforms that helped attract foreign investment began to pay off in Indonesia.

The average rate of inflation in the region in 1989 was 11 per cent, and curbing rising prices remained a major policy objective, particularly in China, Hong Kong and most of South Asia, it said.

"Softening of commodity prices and reduced demand for manufactured goods in the indus-

EC environment chief to push for fossil fuel tax plan

BRUSSELS (R) — A controversial tax on oil and other fossil fuels to curb global warming is now certain to be proposed by the European Community (EC) environment chief.

Environment Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana announced his plan for the so-called carbon tax during a meeting of EC environment ministers in the west of Ireland Saturday, according to diplomats who attended.

Though Ripa gave no details, one of the levy's aims would be to discourage use of fossil fuels — oil, coal and gas — by making them more expensive.

The burning of such fuels releases carbon dioxide, the main contributor to an excessive build-up of gases in the atmosphere that many scientists believe is warming the planet.

Ripa failed to win sufficient backing for a carbon tax from his 16 colleagues in the EC's executive commission when the idea first surfaced last year in early drafts of a strategy to protect the world's tropical rainforests.

But officials close to Ripa believe support is growing among the other commissioners now that global warming has become a major international issue.

The Brussels commission and several EC governments are leading calls for the industrialised world to immediately act to curb the rapidly rising carbon dioxide output, in marked contrast to the United States which calls such

action premature.

If it were adopted by the full commission, Ripa's plan would still need approval by all 12 member governments. Such agreement is far from certain given the political and economic sensitivities it will touch.

Diplomats said member states did not comment on the idea at Saturday's talks, which focused on how the community can help solve Eastern Europe's environmental problems and on the environmental threats posed by the EC's move to a single market.

A statement by the Irish government said ministers agreed on the value of using economic and tax measures to protect the environment. But it left unresolved the key issue of whether such tools should be mandatory throughout the EC or left to the discretion of individual countries.

Officials said if the carbon dioxide levy remains linked to efforts to preserve the rainforests, a small tax would be enough to raise large amounts of cash. However, a minimal levy would do little to reduce fossil fuel use.

The tax will be one of a number of measures to combat global warming that Ripa plans to put forward by the end of the year. Brussels says major cutbacks in output of carbon dioxide could be achieved at little or no economic cost simply if energy was used more sparingly and efficiently.

Milken agrees to plead guilty, pay fine

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The largest securities fraud case in Wall Street history will end next week if a federal judge approves a reported plea-bargain agreement by former junk-bond financier Michael Milken.

Milken, 43, is widely acknowledged as one of the most important financial figures of the 1980s. He is seen as having reshaped corporate America by pioneering the widespread use of high-risk, high-yield bonds, which offer high-interest payments to compensate for the risky nature of the companies that issue them.

The so-called junk bonds were used to finance growth for hundreds of companies and fed a wave of hostile corporate takeovers in the 1980s.

Milken was paid handsomely for his work — receiving \$1 billion from \$1-\$550 million in 1987 alone.

After a year of maintaining his innocence, Milken agreed Friday to plead guilty to six felonies related to securities fraud and pay \$600 million in penalties, sources said. In exchange, the government would drop the most serious charges against Milken.

The former head of Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.'s high-yield bond department had been named with two others in a 98-count federal fraud and racketeering indictment last year.

Prosecutors last month threatened to submit an expanded indictment Friday unless an agreement was reached.

Last year's charges stemmed from the confessions of speculator Ivan Boesky, who cooperated with the government in settling charges that he ran a stock trading network based on illegal inside information.

Boesky, who implicated Milken and Drexel as key participants in his schemes, pleaded guilty to a single felony count in November 1986, agreed to pay a

\$100 million fine and completed a prison term this month.

Drexel pleaded guilty last fall to six criminal charges that described Milken as being at the centre of schemes to cheat clients, trick companies into being taken over, and manipulating the marketplace.

Drexel agreed to pay \$650 million in fines. The company never recovered from the plea deal and the sharp decline of the junk bond market starting last fall; in February the company collapsed and is now being liquidated.

Milken repeatedly said he would be vindicated. But for both sides the plea deal would remove the risk and cost of lengthy jury trial.

Under the deal, the government would drop most serious charges against Milken — insider trading and racketeering — but he still could face as much as 30 years in prison, or five years if the sentences run concurrently, said individuals close to the case who demanded anonymity.

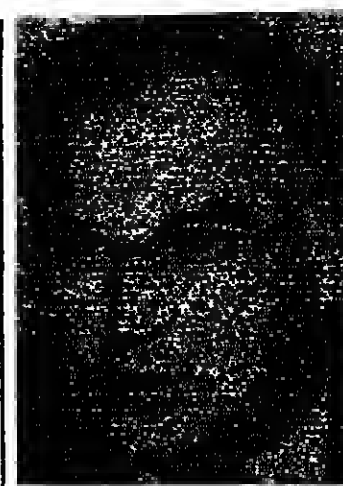
The sources cautioned that although a settlement had been reached it would not be final until the plea formally is entered and approved by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Kimba M. Wood said Friday she has scheduled a conference Tuesday for all parties in the case. She would not elaborate.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John K. Carroll and a spokesman for Milken declined to comment on the deal.

Federal prosecutors would not comment on the Milken case late Friday but a formal announcement was expected for next week. Legal experts have said Milken and the government both have a lot to gain by the settlement.

"The government would be a huge winner and Milken would be a huge winner," said one former government lawyer, who did not want to be identified.



Kohl returns to tackle monetary union

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl is putting finishing touches on plans for currency union between the two Germanys, which he hopes to unveil this week.

"The general line seems to be emerging," one source said, but added that a final decision on what to offer East Germany would be hammered out in ministerial and party meetings chaired by Kohl on Sunday and Monday.

Kohl regularly spends his Easter holiday break in Austria and often makes major policy decisions on his return — last year he launched his biggest cabinet reshuffle.

His task is far from easy. The deal, crucial to German unification, will have to look generous to East Germans, while convincing West Germans that he is not giving too much away.

And the stakes are high. Both Germanys need to be satisfied by the deal if Kohl stands a chance of becoming chancellor in the all-German elections he wants for late 1991.

East Germany's conservative government, elected last month, is demanding that the country's wages, pensions and savings be converted into East German marks at a one-for-one rate when German currency union is achieved this summer.

"(The government) cannot negotiate this," East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said in a West German radio interview Saturday. His party faces another test in local elections May 6.

Kohl promised a one-for-one rate for East German savings during last month's campaign and government sources said the rate was also being considered for wages and pensions.

The sources said the broad outlines of the package for linking East Germany with West Germany's powerful economy and generous social security system would be agreed and published this week.

But the sources added that Kohl still has to convince those who fear the deal will undermine West Germany's economy.

West Germany's main inflation watchdog, its powerful central bank, has broken with tradition by publicly threatening to raise interest rates if a one-for-one deal is pushed through.

Ordinary West Germans support the Bundesbank, fearing that Bonn is risking their prosperity. A television poll last week showed 86 per cent of the thousands who called opposed a one-for-one deal.

"When it comes to economics the people believe the Bundesbank more than the politicians," said a bank economist.

West Germany enjoys one of the world's lowest inflation rates, at an annual 2.7 per cent, but economists fear that giving East Germans the West German mark will unleash a spending binge, which will set off an inflationary spiral.

By the end of this year economists expect West German inflation to reach four per cent, and six per cent in 1991.

Government sources said Kohl also has to win over his finance and economics ministers.

"The eventual package will be exceedingly complicated," said Richard Reid, chief international economist at London broker UBS Phillips and Drew.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, April 22, 1990	Central Bank official rates	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	
Pound Sterling	1077.4	1104.0	
Deutsche mark	396.6	399.0	
Swiss franc	449.2	451.9	
French franc	118.2	118.9	
Japanese yen (for 100)	425.3	427.9	
Dutch guilder	332.8	334.9	
Swedish crown	110.2	110.9	
Italian lira (for 100)	54.1	54.4	
Belgian franc (for 10)	192.8	194.0	

EC and U.S. test resolve to thaw ties

BRUSSELS (R) — The United States and the European Community (EC), fierce opponents over world free trade policy, will this week put to the test signs their relationship is warming under the Bush administration.

European commission President Jacques Delors and a team of trade officials from Brussels will meet top American officials, including President George Bush, in Washington from Monday.

Though the two sides are still far apart on the key issue of farm subsidies, they are at least talking and the Europeans are encouraged that the Bush administration has recognised the importance of an increasingly united Europe.

"We're dealing with the first U.S. government to take Europe seriously since Kennedy," an EC official said.

For Brussels, the new climate is welcome after the simmering tensions and outright trade spats of the Reagan era.

The Washington talks are the first since the two sides decided last December that the speed of change in Europe meant they needed better political cooperation despite commercial competition.

Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady will lead the U.S. delegation. EC commissioners attending include Frans Andriessen and Ray MacSharry, who will meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter.

U.S. officials are determined to deal with the farm subsidy problems raised in the current round of talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), initiated in Uruguay in 1986 and due to end in Brussels in December.

"As far as we're concerned, the top three items on the agenda are going to be the Uruguay round, the Uruguay round and the Uruguay round," one U.S. official said.

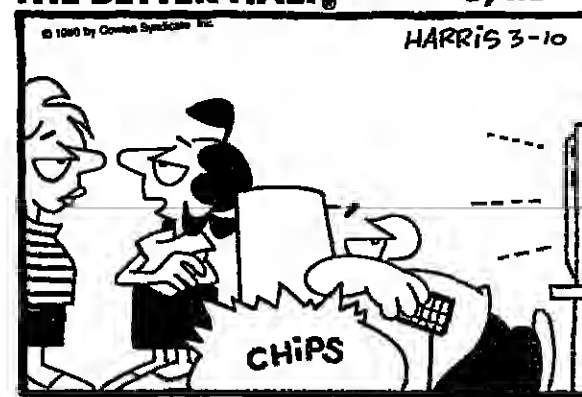
The EC is pleased that Washington is dealing with it as a bloc, rather than emphasizing privileged bilateral relations with individual countries such as Britain.

This is the U.S. response to the community's intentions to create a single market after 1992, a plan which initially scared Washington as a protectionist fortress Europe.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

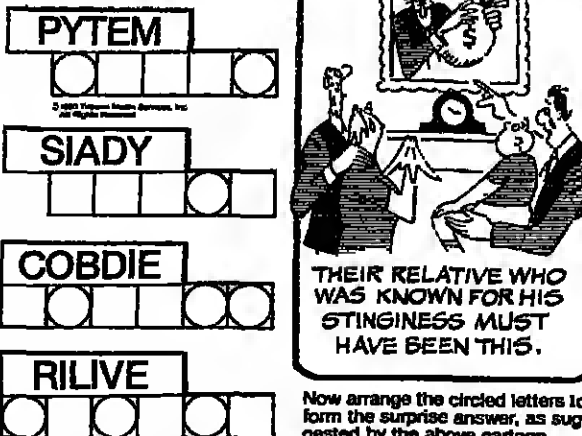


"Stanley must have an open mind. All the smarts fell out."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

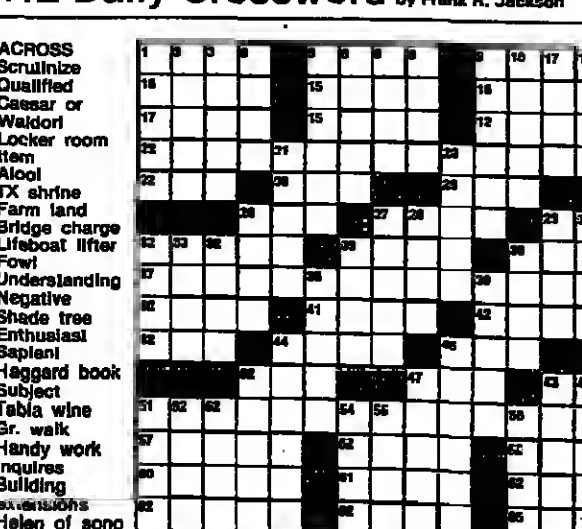


Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLAZE CLOAK LUNACY PACKET

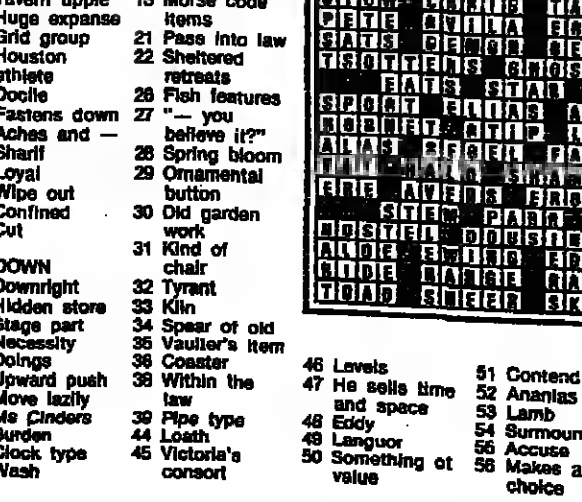
Answer: What it takes to have no eyebrows — A LOT OF PLUCK

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solver:



Texan grabs IBF flyweight title

SUNDERLAND, England (AP) — American challenger John Quiroga wrenched the International Boxing Federation (IBF) super-flyweight title from Colombia's Juan Polo Perez on a unanimous points decision Saturday.

Quiroga, who also holds the United States boxing association crown, was cut late in the 12-round fight.

But the 21-year-old Texan held on to take the verdict to become the second Texan this year to win a title, in a fight at the Crownview leisure centre in this northeast English town.

In January, Orlando Canizales won the IBF bantamweight title

by gaining a split decision over Britain's Billy Hardy, who was fighting in his home town.

According to the judge's cards this time, Quiroga too would have won a split decision but for two points docked from the champion for low punching in rounds eight and 12.

English judge Dave Parris scored it 114-113 for Quiroga, countryman Ray Francis had it 115-112 while West Germany's Heinrich Mnhmert had the American a 116-112 winner.

British fight promoter John Spenseley brought to the two super-flyweights across the Atlantic and the mainly British crowd got behind the unbeaten Texan.

Agassi pulls out of Monte Carlo Open

MONTE CARLO (R) — World number four tennis player Andre Agassi pulled out of the Monte Carlo Open Sunday, eve of the \$1 million tournament.

Agassi, who was seeded third for the event, was the third big name to withdraw in the past week.

Fellow American John McEnroe, who missed last week's Nice Open because of injury, pulled out earlier as did Mats Wilander of Sweden who returned home because his father was seriously ill.

Organisers said Agassi injured his right hamstring while practising for the tournament.

Top seeds in the Monte Carlo tournament are world number two and three Stefan Edberg of

Sweden and Boris Becker of West Germany.

Last year's champion Alberto Mancini of Argentina, who beat Becker in the final, is seeded 11th.

Mancini sprang to the fore at last year's event, the most prestigious of the early European clay court tournaments, when he beat Wilander and Becker in succession and won his first major title.

This year the tournament looks wide open. Few players are showing consistent form on clay in the build-up to the French Open at the end of next month.

The Nice Open, also on clay, was littered with upsets with only one seed reaching the quarter-finals and none making the semi-finals.

Minoza wins Dunlop Open

INA, Japan (R) — Frankie Minoza of the Philippines beat Japan's veteran Teruo Sugihara in a play-off to win the 100-million-yen (\$630,000) Dunlop Open golf tournament Sunday.

Minoza, winner of the Indonesia and Taiwan Open tournaments, also captured the circuit's Order of Merit title which gives him the right to play all the PGA events in Japan for one year and invitations to the British Open and U.S. memorial tournament.

"I'm very, very happy because my dream has come true," the 30-year-old Filipino said.

Minoza carded six birdies, including four in succession from the 13th, and one bogey for a final round of 67. Sugihara shot 68 over the rain-soaked 7,163-yard layout to match Minoza's 11-under-par total of 205.

Play Saturday in the tournament, the 10th and final event of the Asian circuit, was called off due to rain.

In Sunday's playoff, Minoza made the day's best approach shot at the first extra hole, the 15th, when he hit a nine iron from the trees to within two feet and sank the putt for a birdie.

The 52-year-old Sugihara, who appeared in top form when he won his 52nd career victory last week, made an easy five-foot birdie.

Minoza then sank a superb 40-foot birdie putt for his first victory in Japan at the second extra hole, the 448-yard 16th, after Sugihara had hit a sand wedge shot from 25 yards to within five feet.

"Before hitting the putt, I never thought I could sink the long putt but I tried," said Minoza, who began the day two shots behind the pace.

The victory earned him a first prize of 18 million yen (\$114,000) with 10 million yen (\$63,000) going to Sugihara as runner-up.

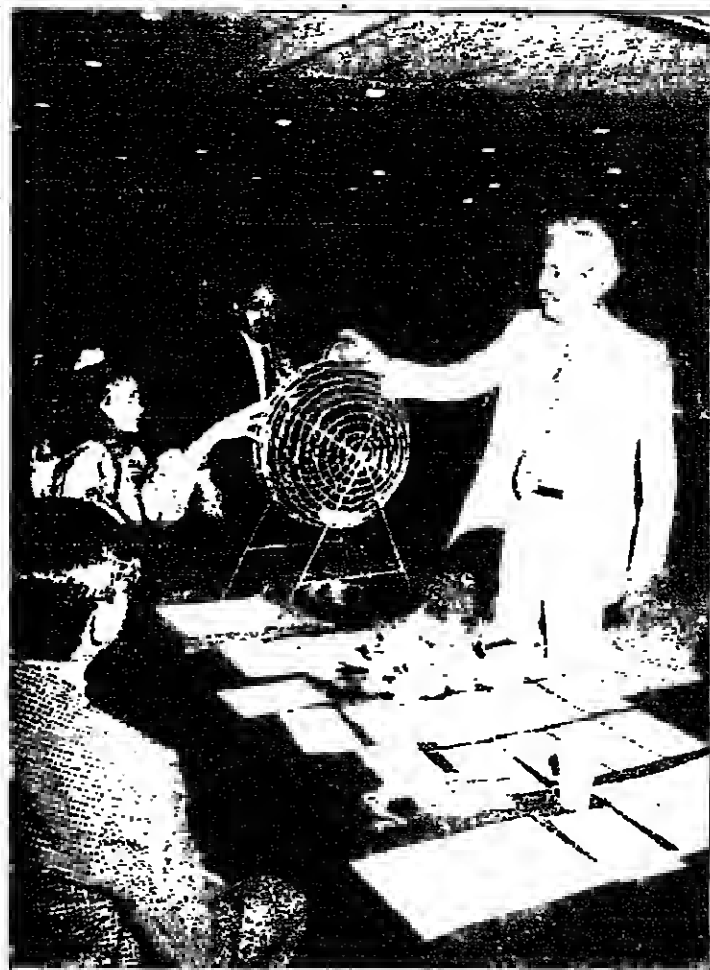


Photo shows the drawing of lots, for the 5th Arab Basketball championship for men and the first for ladies, which was held Saturday at the Orthodox Club. A total of 18 basketball teams from Iraq, Morocco, Jordan, Tunis, Algeria, Syria, Egypt, North Yemen, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will be taking part in the championship which will be held under the Royal patronage during the period from May 2-10.

Seles and Maleeva advance to final

LARGO, Florida (Agencies) — Katerina Maleeva, forging her own identity on the women's tennis tour, ousted Arantxa Sanchez Vicario Sunday to set up a title match against top-seeded Monica Seles in the \$225,000 Largo Open.

Maleeva, the fourth seed from Bulgaria, rallied from an early first-set deficit to beat the second-seeded Spaniard 6-4, 6-2. Seles stretched her match-winning streak to 14 with a 6-4, 6-0 in her semifinal against defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain.

"I hope people will now recognize me as Katerina Maleeva, referring to her 23-year-old sister, who is ranked eighth in the world. 'This makes me very happy. It will give me strength to practise harder and try to win all the tournaments.'"

The 20-year-old Maleeva, who has never played Seles, is already assured of moving up one spot in the ranking — to a career high number one, just behind her big sister. Little sister, Magdalena, turned professional last year at age 14.

Sanchez Vicario broke Maleeva twice to start the match and led 3-0. But Maleeva, playing patiently from the baseline, won 12 of the next 15 games.

Maleeva said it was a matter of slowing down and not trying too hard. But Sanchez Vicario said the match might have changed on what she thought were a few bad line calls.

Sanchez Vicario, the French Open champion, protested several calls at the baseline, sometimes turning to the crowd and imploring the officials to "wake up."

"One call, two calls, okay," said Sanchez Vicario, "but not six in a row. In your mind, you are thinking you could have won the first set 6-3. The umpires were really bad, terrible. (but) That is no excuse. I didn't play so well and she played better than me."

Maleeva said the calls had little to do with the result. "She runs great, but that is all she can do," said Maleeva, who also beat Sanchez Vicario last month in the final at Houston.

"She doesn't have a shot that can get you out of position. Her strength is running and getting the ball back."

Seles, seeking a third straight tournament title, never let Martinez into the match. Martinez could not unleash her powerful forehand as Seles kept her on the defensive.

"All I can say is Monica played unbelievable," Martinez said. "Today (hitting the forehand) was impossible. She hit the ball so hard and got it back so quickly."

Seles, who has lost only nine games in her four tournament matches, maintains that she is not playing that well.

"I am not playing as well as I can," Seles said. "My serve has not been well this week. But it is nice to be winning. I remember what it was like to lose earlier in the year and I don't want to have that feeling again."

In other games, Ken Flach and Robert Seguso saved five match points Sunday and rallied to beat Anders Jarryd and David Pate 7-5, 2-6, 7-6, (7-1) in the semifinals of the WCT world doubles championship.

Flach, from Des Peres, Missouri, and Seguso, from Boca Raton, Florida, thus earned a rematch with Rick Leach and Jim Pugh in Monday's final. Leach and Pugh, who have displaced Flach and Seguso on the U.S. Davis Cup team, routed Darren Cahill and Mark Kratzmann 6-4, 6-2, in 58 minutes.

Leach and Pugh defeated Flach and Seguso in the tournament's opening match Wednesday, 6-4, 6-4.

Flach and Seguso were facing elimination at 5-6 in the third set Sunday as Jarryd continued to score with crosscourt returns out of the reach of Flach's forehand. Jarryd, from Sweden, and Pate, from Las Vegas, won 15-40. Seguso saved those two points with crisp volleys.

Jarryd created two more match points in consecutive deuces, and Flach brought a third upon himself with a double fault. However, Flach saved the first two with service winners, and Seguso won the third with another sharp volley.

Hutton becomes first Scot to win London Marathon

LONDON (AP) — Scotsman Allister Hutton romped away with the 26.3-mile (42.2-kilometre) London Marathon Sunday as a feared Ethiopian challenge evaporated.

Hutton broke clear of the pack with ten miles (16 kilometres) left, completing the course in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 10 seconds. Italy's Salvatore Bettiol placed second and Juan Romero of Spain came in third in 2:10:48.

In the women's race, Wanda Panfil of Poland beat off a strong challenge to win in 2:26:31. American Francie Larrieu-Smith was second in 2:28:01, followed by compatriot Lisa Weidenbach in 2:28:16.

The only danger to Hutton came a few metres from the finish line, when two demonstrators carrying a banner broke through the security cordon but were prevented from reaching the runner. The expected Ethiopian challenge, including world record holder Belayneh Densimo, never materialised.

Perhaps affected by the overnight showers and steady rain that greeted the 26,000 starters, Densimo never figured among the leading six.

Countryman Dereje Nedi held third place for a mid-race spell but failed to make the first ten finishers.

Densimo, whose world mark is 2:06:50, was seen to be holding the back of his leg during the warm-up and dropped out during the race.

Hutton said he was paced during the first half of the race by countryman Nick Rose, a specialist at 3,000 metres.

"I spoke to Nick at about six miles (9.6 kilometres) and said I felt good so he could push it on. He just kept increasing the pace bit by bit and, when I looked back, I could see we were moving away," he said.

Larrieu-Smith, who eclipsed

her best time by 5.3 seconds, said: "I could hear people saying I was in fourth place and I could see Lisa ahead of me. Then the Soviet girl was coming so I decided to give it one last shot. I just stared ahead at Lisa's back and kept on running. 'I was not running for a place but for a fast time and it got me second place.'"

"Funny things happen to your brain in a marathon. You can't do simple mathematical functions and work out your time," said Larrieu-Smith, who collected \$30,000 for her second place.

Weidenbach picked up \$22,500 for third place compared with the \$52,195 that went to each of the winners.

Rosa Mota, the Portuguese European, Olympic and world champion, who withdrew to run in Boston last week, joined the fun runners and completed half of the London course to raise money for disabled Portuguese athletes.

Draw puts Ajax ahead

AMSTERDAM (R) — Ajax Amsterdam emerged as clear title favourites Sunday after they picked up a point in a 1-1 draw at Willem II while PSV Eindhoven crashed 4-1 at Fortuna Sittard.

The two clubs are level on 45 points but Ajax head the table by virtue of having played a game less. The Amsterdam side have three matches remaining.

Fortuna's English-born striker Mark Farrington stunned PSV with a first half hat-trick. He grabbed his opening goal after 17 minutes from a Marcel Van Helmond cross and added a second three minutes later.

Veteran Danish midfielder Soren Lerby, who retires at the end of the season, put PSV back in the hunt with his third goal in successive matches when he beat the offside trap to score after 29 minutes.

But Farrington restored the two-goal advantage and captain Eric Gerets completed a miserable day for PSV when he put through his own goal nine minutes after the break.

PSV, chasing their fifth consecutive title, never looked like getting back into the game.

Club Bruges eyes title

BRUSSELS (R) — Australian Frank Farina, the Belgian league's leading scorer, hit his 21st goal of the season as club Bruges beat nearest rivals Anderlecht 3-0 Sunday to move within sight of the first division title.

Club Bruges have 52 points from 31 games, four ahead of European Cup Winners' Cup finalists Anderlecht with three more rounds to be played. Champions Mechelen are third, six points behind the leaders. Farina gave Club Bruges the lead shortly before half-time. Peter Creve added the second after 65 minutes and Luc Beyens sealed the win with a long-distance shot. Both Luc Nils and Arnoor Gudjonsson hit the post for Anderlecht. Anderlecht midfielder Marc Degryse said Club Bruges deserved to be champions. "They will win the title because they won the big matches, and we didn't," he said.

Japanese wins Rotterdam Marathon

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Hiromi Taniguchi of Japan Sunday won the 1990 Rotterdam Marathon in 2:10:56, but failed to beat the world marathon record set here in 1983.

Ethiopian Abebe Mekonnen, the 1989 Boston Marathon champion, finished second in 2:11:53. He was followed by countryman Testfaye Dadi in 2:15:01.

The women's winner was Carla Beurskens of the Netherlands in 2:29:47.

Taniguchi and Mekonnen, the 1986 winner, were in the lead at the start of the second half of the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.2-kilometre) race, in a group with Ahmad Saleh of Djibouti, the favourite and 1988 Olympic bronze medalist.

With nine miles (14 kilometres) left, Saleh dropped back and it became a battle between Taniguchi and Mekonnen. They ran

side-by-side, each watching the other to see who would make the first move to pull ahead.

Taniguchi finally moved ahead with just over three miles left and steadily extended his lead over the Ethiopian policeman. But he didn't come close to breaking the world best of 2:06:50 set here two years ago by Ethiopian Belayneh Densimo.

The race was run in a light breeze, under partly sunny skies. The absence of major inclines makes the Rotterdam course ideal for running fast times. Trees shelter much of the course from headwinds.

A world best also was set here in 1985 by 1984 Olympic gold medalist Carlos Lopes of Portugal.

Masanori Shintaku of Japan finished fourth in 2:15:37 and his compatriot Hideki Kita was fifth in 2:15:39.

Baseball roundup

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds set a club record with their ninth straight win to start the season, beating Atlanta 8-1 Saturday as Jack Armstrong got his third victory and Barry Larkin singled home two runs.

Cincinnati, on its longest winning streak since 1975, is four wins shy of the major-league record for victories at the start of the season, shared by Atlanta and Milwaukee.

Armstrong (3-0) gave up the one run and five hits over six innings and struck out seven.

Marty Daryl (0-1) allowed six hits and six runs and walked six 1-3 innings. The Braves are 1-8.

In New York, Frank Viola raised his record to 3-0 and Darryl Strawberry and Kevin Elster each hit two-run homers.

Viola allowed seven hits, struck out eight and walked one in 2-3 innings. He took a 5-1 lead into the ninth but John Franco relieved following Andres Galarraga's home run. After Spike Owen's two-run double, Franco got Nelson Santovenia on a groundout for his fourth save.

In Chicago, John Smiley pitched a strong game and Jeff King homered and drove in two runs, leading Pittsburgh to its third straight victory.

Smiley (1-2) worked into the eighth inning, allowed six hits, struck out six and walked one in handing the Cubs their third straight loss. Bill Landrum relieved with the bases loaded and none out in the eighth and got his first save.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠107652 ♠AQ5 ♠A63 ♣7.
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—Normally, you would rebid a six-card major. Here, however, you have a weak spade suit and excellent support for what must be at least a five-card suit in partner's hand. Forget about your spades and raise to three hearts to confirm the existence of an eight-card trump fit.

Q2.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠109753 ♠Q93 ♣7 ♠K6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Pass Pass 3 ♠
What action do you take?
A.—You have little in the way of points, but your hand does contain a fair number of playing tricks. Since partner could have a reasonable hand with no convenient bid, we would not surrender without a fight. Bid three spades.

Q3.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J84 ♠Q10874 ♠8 ♠AK64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ DBL 2 ♠

What action do you take?
A.—You have the values for a re-double, but that action suggests you have a power raise of partner's suit, want the courtesy of the road to double the opponents, or you have a hand good enough to introduce a new suit. You certainly don't intend to double one spade, and a subsequent bid of two hearts would be forcing on a possible misfit. The solution is to bid one heart now. In

modern theory it is forcing, just as if there had been no intervening double.

Q4.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A3 ♠AJ86 ♠K43 ♠KQ42
Partner opens the bidding with three diamonds. What do you respond?
A.—Since partner cannot have two aces for his preempt, slam is out of the question. This is simply a matter of choosing the right game. For his vulnerable preempt, partner should have a good seven-card diamond suit, which gives you nine tricks off the top in three no trump. Bid 1!

Q5.—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K65 ♠6 ♠9732 ♠AQ643
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠
What action do you take?
A.—You certainly want to compete, but to raise diamonds would be short-sighted. It looks as if partner is going to be on opening lead, so why not first pinpoint your strength. Bid four clubs. That, by implication, shows diamond support.

Q6.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ10432 ♠A96 ♠103 ♠92
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 NT Pass Pass 2 ♠
What action do you take?
A.—From the bidding, you can expect partner to hold at least 10 points. Since you have a six-card suit, don't let the opponents get a cheap partial, especially since partner is likely to make a lead that will help their cause. Compete with two spades.

Reid leads GGO golf

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Mike Reid led a one-man assault on par Sunday posting a tournament-best 5-under-par 67 to take a three-shot lead after the third round of the Greater Greensboro Open (GGO).

The combination of tall rough and swirling winds had kept scores uncharacteristically high for the first two rounds.

The winds continued to swirl at the Forest Oaks country club, but Reid got the jump on a field which had been reduced to conservative play with the best round of the tournament.

Only six golfers have broken 70 in the GGO, normally one of the lower-scoring events on the PGA tour. Just 20 of the 71 players are at par or better going into Monday's final round, led by Reid's 7-under 209.

"I didn't play flawless golf by any means," said Reid, a \$2 million winner in 14 years on the PGA tour. "I took advantage of my opportunities."

Reid's birdie at the second hole was negated by an errant 4-iron tee shot into a bunker and a two-putt bogey at the par-3 fourth hole. Reid rallied with a short birdie putt at no. 5 and another one at no. 7.

Reid saved par at no. 10 when he hit a long chip to within two feet of the cup on the par-4 hole, then made three more birdies on his last eight holes.

"This isn't the kind of golf course, particularly this week, that you ever think you're going to tear it up," Reid said. "You keep plodding along and setting up the opportunities and hole a few putts and you turn in a good score."

Fred Couples, erratic on a front nine played under threatening skies, stabilised his game on the back nine and came in with a 71 for a three-day total of 212. He said his primary strategy for Monday would be to give himself a chance to make birdies.

"If I go out and play like I did today, I can't be very aggressive," he said. "If I go out and hit seven, eight, nine or 10 fairways, I can hit from some cut grass and get some spin on the ball."

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Coup attempt foiled in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government said it foiled a coup attempt by junior officers Sunday and announced that President Ibrahim Babangida, reported toppled by rebels, was safe and running the country.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Sanni Abacha said on state radio that all service chiefs had "pledged their unflinching support and loyalty to the federal military government of General Ibrahim Babangida who is perfectly safe and with whom I am in contact."

Abacha said most of the rebel soldiers had been arrested and were being interrogated.

He called on others to surrender and hand over their arms. Abacha, who announced the coup in August 1985 which brought Babangida to power, said the government was firmly committed to its programme for a return to civil rule.

"No amount of threat or blackmail will distract the... government's attention in this regard. We are set to hand over to a democratically elected government in 1992," he said.

Had it succeeded the coup would have been Nigeria's seventh since independence from Britain in 1960.

Abacha dismissed the attempt as "sporadic firing by a few disloyal and misguided soldiers in some isolated parts of Lagos, followed by an embarrassing radio broadcast."

He said the rebels were "motivated by greed and self-interest." They "wanted to constitute themselves into a national security nuisance for no other reason than base avarice," he said.

Shooting erupted in the early hours of Sunday. Reporters and about 100 onlookers were kept back by bursts of automatic fire and for a long time could not tell whether the soldiers were rebels or loyalists.

There were no reports of fighting and most of Lagos was quiet. But Nigeria's borders were closed

and flights into Lagos from other West African countries were cancelled, airline officials said.

Soldiers blocked roads around the city's Dodan barracks early in the morning as an army major, Gigi Ogunwa Oaka, told the nation in a radio broadcast that the president had been overthrown.

"I wish to happily inform you of the successful ousting of the dictatorial, corrupt, drug-baronish, inhumane, sadistic, deceitful, homosexually centred... and unpatriotic administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida," he said.

The major claimed to represent the people of the mainly Christian middle belt and southern regions, as opposed to the predominantly Muslim North.

Decreeing the immediate "excision" of five northern states from the 21-state federation, he accused Babangida of plotting to hold on to the presidency for life.

Many of his grievances were those frequently aired by left-wing opponents of the military regime — that Babangida was a dictator who had made Nigeria a slave to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by piling up debt and imposing tough economic reforms.



Ibrahim Babangida

ary Fund (IMF) by piling up debt and imposing tough economic reforms.

The major said the new government would bring in representatives of students, workers and peasants and scrap repressive laws.

He said they had disbanded Babangida's recently formed National Guard — an armed force solely responsible to the president.

Croatia, Slovenia vote in free elections

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Croatia, the second highest republic in Yugoslavia and one of the most economically advanced, voted Sunday in its first free elections since before World War II.

The Communists who have ruled Croatia for 45 years are fighting for survival against a centre-right coalition and a nationalist party with separatist leanings. Their defeat would be another big blow to Communism in Eastern Europe.

Voters also went to the polls in the neighbouring northern republic of Slovenia to choose a regional president. Reformist Communist Milan Kucan was tipped to win a close battle against centre-right coalition leader Jozse Pucnik.

Pucnik's Democratic United Opposition of Slovenia (DEMO) crushed the Communists in elections to Slovenia's parliament on April 8, Yugoslavia's first multi-party ballot since 1938.

But the absence of reliable opinion polls and the reformist trend of Croatia's Communists, who have split from the ruling federal party, make the outcome there hard to predict.

The first of Croatia's 3.5 million voters turned out in bright sunshine to choose 356 deputies for three chambers of parliament. A second round will be necessary on May 6 in constituencies where no candidate wins more than half the vote.

"I see the Communists getting the worst of three reasonably solid votes," a Western diplomat said.

Their main rivals are the nine-party centre right Coalition of People's Accord (CPA) and the nationalist Croatian Democratic Union (CDU). Both say they will move faster than the Communists towards independence or secession from the rest of Yugoslavia, federation of eight republics and provinces.

Asked if the Communists could

return to power in Croatia, CDU leader Ranjo Tadjman answered: "Certainly not this century."

An opposition win in Croatia, which forms the pivot of power in Yugoslavia with the highest republic, would seriously weaken the Communists' grip on the country.

Federal ruling party has almost totally collapsed in a row over reforms fuelled by the democratic changes elsewhere in Eastern Europe and an economic crisis at home.

Diplomats say the demand of all parties for more independence from the rest of Yugoslavia could accelerate the disintegration of the already frail Balkan federation.

"The Croat spring cannot be stopped," Marko Veselica, a CPA leader, said at the end of the election campaign. "The Communist empire is falling apart from Vladivostok to the Baltics and we must do our share to topple it."

22 killed in Xinjiang, China says

PEKING (R) — China said Sunday that 22 people were killed and at least 13 were injured in an armed counter-revolutionary rebellion in its far western region of Xinjiang this month.

Xinjiang provincial television said in a broadcast from the regional capital of Urumqi that a revolt by a "small number of ruffians" was put down in the town of Baren in the Kizilsu Kirghiz autonomous prefecture on April 5 and 6.

The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), was the first official confirmation of widespread reports of bloody ethnic clashes in the remote region.

About 50 people, mostly Muslims of the ethnic Kirghiz minority, were said to have been killed in clashes with security forces near Kashgar along the ancient silk road this month, according to Western media accounts.

The official Xinjiang daily also reported on April 4 a crackdown on separatist activities in Yili, a town further north along the border with the Soviet Union.

Foreigners have been barred from the area in recent months but Western diplomats in Peking quoted Chinese police and government officials as saying that a disturbance had taken place near Kashgar but was now over.

Xinjiang television said that 15 "ruffians" were killed in the disturbance after rebels hurled bombs at police and destroyed four police vehicles. The other deaths were police.

It accused the ringleaders of being murderers on the run, former inmates of labour camps, as well as habitual thieves.

"Working in collusion, they formed a counter-revolutionary organisation and conspired to oppose the Chinese Communist Party and the people's government," it said.

"Acting like tyrants, they forced the masses to give them food and money in order to amass the supplies they needed. They also had weapons and ammunition ready for carrying out the rebellion."

During a festival on April 5, the leaders of the group forced "ill-informed masses to make trouble," according to the official account.

German unification already taking place along ever-vanishing frontier

HEILIGENSTADT, East Germany (AP) — On Heiligenstadt's tiny market square, Evelyn Dietrich wraps up a hot Wurst inside her humble snack bar and then steals a quick glance to see how many customers her West German competitor is getting.

Ms. Dietrich sells sausages from a stand butting up against a huge Wurst van run by an overnight entrepreneur from the nearby West German city of Eschwege.

"Our prices are far better than this, so we don't have any trouble keeping our customers. In fact, some of our best customers are from the West," she said.

"Sometimes it's hard to believe there's a border anymore," she said, returning to her work.

Politicians are still debating when and how Germany's division will officially end. But along the hilly frontier, unification is already taking shape, and fast.

Heiligenstadt, population 16,000, and other East German frontier towns are right at the crossroads of an ever-tightening linkage of the two German nations.

West German department stores advertise regularly in East German border town newspapers, purveying everything from pantyhose to chain saws.

German-German social gatherings are as common along the border as walking across the street for a neighbourly visit.

Soot-smudged chimney sweeps and other East German workers whose jobs may face extinction take time out for career retraining in the West.

Foreseeing future profits, West German business people are stocking East German stores with electronic goods, fruits and clothing, and West German beer is a favourite at East German taverns.

Over Easter, thousands of Mercedes, BMWs, Volkswagens and other West German cars plied the narrow road winding through the hills to Heiligenstadt.

a Catholic spa town that has retained some of its old European charm despite Communist neglect, coal-befouled air and the usual crumbling buildings.

East German border officials waved them through, often without even a cursory ID check.

West Germany's currency isn't expected to replace the East German mark until sometime this summer, as part of an economic union in which West Germany will be running most of its neighbour's business affairs.

But a melding of the two nations' economies is already under way.

West German business people have been swarming across the border, checking out market prospects and buildings where they can open up future stores, preparing for the day when doing business in East Germany will be little different than at home.

State-owned stores across East Germany are already selling West German goods. And Eastern bank accounts are getting filled with East German mark profits of West German businessmen hoping for a bonanza when West Germany's currency becomes East Germany's legal tender.

Uwe Fritsch, 30, runs a small shop in nearby Muehlhausen that once dealt in second-hand goods but now has among its stock once-scarce electronics goods purchased from West Germany.

"Last week a truck came in loaded with cassette recorders and other products," said Fritsch. "Everything was sold out within three days. We had to hand over some of the goods to other shops in Muehlhausen because we didn't have the personnel to deal with it," he told the Associated Press.

He said West German televisions and stereos are cheaper than comparable East German goods.

But the two Germany's ever-expanding process of unification is also producing some major discomforts.

West Germans having been buying up vast quantities of relatively inexpensive state-subsidised East German goods, earning hostile stares from their poorer East German cousins.

Property ownership is another sore point.

Heiligenstadt Mayor Bernd Beck said that in his town, there have been "many instances" of West Germans who once lived in the East coming back to try to claim their old property.

"There are some who once owned businesses here and want them back," he said.

But he said nothing can be done about this until the two German nations draft a treaty agreeing how such claims can be settled.

"We can't throw anybody out on the street. That wouldn't be fair," said Beck.

Economists have said up to 2 million East German jobs could be lost because many factories and businesses won't be able to keep pace with competitors from the wealthy West.

The arrival of West German products has also been a mixed blessing for East Germans.

Even though electronic goods are generally cheaper and in far greater supply than before the ouster of Communist rule, some other Western goods are way beyond East Germans' price range — sometimes costing three times as much.

Employees at a Heiligenstadt women's store said they still sell just East German clothing because few people in town would be able to afford Western-made items.

The existence of West German goods on East German store shelves also often means a comparable East German product won't be bought.

"From juice to lemonade to yogurt — there's so much from over there. Our people crave goods from the golden West, but leave products made here sitting on the shelves," said Fritsch.

Moscow plans emergency measures for Chernobyl

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government has proposed a 16-billion-ruble (\$2.6 billion) emergency programme to help people affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the official daily Pravda said Sunday.

The move followed criticism that authorities have tried to cover up the extent of the accident at the nuclear power station in the Ukraine on April 26, 1986.

Demonstrations to mark the anniversary of the disaster were planned in several cities in the Ukraine and the neighbouring republic of Byelorussia Sunday.

The proposed government programme would include money for continued resettlement of people who live in radiated areas, improving medical care to those whose health has been affected and providing the population with "clean" food, Pravda said.

The Communist Party daily did not say where the money would come from. In February, Lev Maksimov, Byelorussia's envoy to the United Nations, appealed to foreign governments for aid saying the bill for Chernobyl was turning out higher than expected.

He estimated 17 billion roubles (\$2.7 billion) were needed.

Pravda said the "urgent measures" had been proposed by the President of the Council of Ministers for 1990 to 1992, but they must still be approved by the Soviet parliament.

It said the president also adopted a proposal for getting help from Soviet and foreign specialists, and approved programmes to deal with the aftermath in Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

According to official figures, 31 people died as a result of the explosion and fire at Chernobyl which sent a cloud of radioactive particles across much of Europe.

However, environmental activists have said the final death toll will be much higher if account is taken of those who have since died — or are dying — as a result of radiation sickness from fallout.

Fifty-one Ukrainian children with radiation sickness were sent to Israel for treatment last month. In Byelorussia, an estimated 20 per cent of farm and timberland was contaminated.

U.S. displays Stealth

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — One of America's worst kept military secrets, the F-117A Stealth fighter, was unveiled Saturday to a crowd of thousands who cheered the appearance of the \$42-million jet.

Two of the bat-shaped planes swept in under thin clouds, zoomed over Nellis Air Force Base, banked sharply against the Las Vegas skyline and landed to give the public its first closeup of the once top-secret aircraft.

There was an eerie whine as the lead craft, made a pass just 18 metres above the runway. The second then swept by the crowd, circled and landed.

The jets were surprisingly quiet both in flight and while taxiing to an area surrounded by several thousand people, including military families, dignitaries and 225 reporters and photographers, including 37 from Britain, France, Australia, Japan and West Germany.

Viewing was later opened to the public, and as many as 150,000 people were expected.

No performance details were released, other than that the F-117A is a single-seat, twin-engine subsonic jet made of advanced materials to avoid radar detection — hence its "Stealth" moniker.

"It is a fighter in every respect," one of the pilots, Capt. Randall Peterson, 30, told the crowd.

He said the jet has outstanding handling and gives the United States unprecedented capabilities. Asked about those capabilities, he said, "we're not allowed to discuss any capability. A lot of the information is still classified."

Also off-limits were questions on reports that a Stealth fighter used in the U.S. invasion of Panama last year dropped bombs far from its target.

"The bombs hit exactly where they were aimed," Randall said before another air force officer broke in and said, "we can't discuss information like that."

"I only wish I could tell you what this fighter can really do," said Ben Rich, vice president of Lockheed Corp., which builds the jet at its secret "Skunk Works" in Burbank, California.

"The performance is awesome and the weapons system is unmatched anywhere in the world."

The U.S. Air Force only recently lifted the shroud of secrecy on the F-117A, which long had been rumoured to exist and has been flying for a decade. Previously, only pictures had been shown.

Lithuania looks westward with frustration

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — As Lithuania struggles with embargoes of goods ranging from tyres to fish, it is looking with increasing frustration for help from the West.

No foreign countries raced to recognise the Baltic republic after it declared the restoration of its lost independence on March 11.

But its leaders still are looking westward for moral support if not material help as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's government shuts down fuel supply lines and Lithuanian factories are threatened with closing.

Even moral support has been rare. A Lithuanian appeal for diplomatic recognition from the European Community was shunned Saturday.

Diplomats said the EC did not want to destabilise Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, which would endanger the republic.

The European Community, meeting in Dublin, Ireland, called on Moscow to lift its blockade of oil and gas supplies to Lithuania and called the action "coercive," but did not issue any threat of retaliation or recognise Lithuania.

The West limits itself "to lip-

service or statements of hope that the Soviets will start acting better," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters. "This could have led Mr. Gorbachev to believe he could do whatever he wanted."

Meanwhile, Lithuania will be "closed down in a kind of prison, kept in the cold, suffering from food shortages, and it will be an interesting picture for the so-called free and democratic world," Landsbergis said.

Deputy Premier Romualdas Ozolas said Friday the next two to three days would determine whether the hopes Lithuanian independence leaders pinned on the West were an illusion.

On Saturday, he said help from the West was critical as Moscow appeared to institute a virtually total blockade on supplies to the breakaway republic.

U.S. President George Bush will brief Congress next week on possible retaliation for the Kremlin's economic crackdown, spokesman Martin Fitzwater has promised. The White House is "increasingly concerned" about reports of the economic pressure on Lithuania, he said.

Western diplomats in Moscow,

however, have been unwilling to go further in their support of Lithuania than warnings that if the Kremlin continues to opt for confrontation instead of negotiations, it could damage its growing cooperation with the West. One diplomat, who spoke on the condition he would remain anonymous, said a "major disruption" in U.S.-Soviet relations could result.

The United States and most Western governments never recognised the forcible annexation of Lithuania and its Baltic neighbours, Latvia and Estonia, by the Red Army under Josef Stalin in 1940.

For many years afterward, Lithuanians say, they waited each year for the West to somehow come to their rescue.

In the end, it was the political changes that Gorbachev unleashed in his own country and Eastern Europe that gave Lithuania its chance.

Lithuania appealed for official recognition from other countries as it declared itself once more independent. But in the delicate political atmosphere of improving East-West relations, Landsbergis said Lithuanians realised it

probably would not be immediately forthcoming.

"When we started out on this form of struggle for independence, we did not expect quick help," he told the Supreme Council Legislature Friday. "We made the decision because it was necessary, and everything else flows from this."

Landsbergis said he did not believe that international trade union organisations would stand idly by if Soviet embargoes throw thousands of Lithuanians out of work.

His government officials acknowledge that political recognition or an economic bailout is no long-term solution to Lithuania's dispute with the Soviet Union.

Ozolas and Deputy Premier Algirdas Brazauskas, who is also the Communist Party chief, say that the only long-range solution is a political agreement with Moscow.

But Ozolas said a show of support could help Lithuania's cause by offering a challenge to Gorbachev.

"At least one oil tanker at the Soviet border might change the blockade situation radically," he said.

COLUMN

Princess Stephanie engaged

PARIS (AP) — Princess Stephanie of Monaco and French real estate magnate Jean-Yves Le Fur announced their engagement to friends and relatives at a private party Saturday in Paris restaurant, the restaurant owner said. Among the 50 or so guests were Stephanie's older siblings, Princess Caroline and Prince Albert. Albert is her heir to the principality's throne. After Le Fur gave Stephanie the engagement ring, they toasted their coming nuptials with champagne. Said Bernard Marck, owner of the Chic Le Telegraph restaurant. Earlier in the evening, Le Fur and Stephanie entered the restaurant without speaking to reporters. Monaco's ruler, Prince Rainier III, had been expected to attend but was not seen by photographers. The palace in Monaco issued no official communiqué regarding the party. But after persistent demands by journalists, press officials confirmed a report about the engagement published Saturday in the French newspaper Nice Matin.

Hutton files suit against fellow actress

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress-model Lauren Hutton, the gapped-tooth star of such films as American Gigolo, filed suit against fellow actress and friend Beverly d'Angelo for allegedly breaking her leg in a car accident. "It's not like she was over her on purpose. It was just an accident, but we wanted to protect the statute (of limitations)," Hutton attorney Richard Bisetti said. Such suits must be filed within a year of an accident. The Superior Court suit filed earlier this month against Miss d'Angelo and Budget Rent a Car seeks an unspecified amount for medical expenses, loss of earnings and pain and suffering. On Aug. 20, Miss d'Angelo was behind the wheel of a rented car that backed into Miss Hutton, 46, who was waiting to get inside. Bisetti said. "She was in a cast for almost eight months and they (doctors) are still concerned about her leg," he said.

Paul McCartney winds up world tour in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Paul McCartney and his band wraps up a 33-city world tour with a sold-out performance before 175,000 spectators in a Rio stadium. McCartney planned to sing 29 songs, including two Beatles classics, Let It Be, and Yesterday on a 32-metre stage mounted with more than 20 truckloads of sound equipment, screens and laser cannons. Thousands of fans, many wearing "We Love You Paul" T-shirts, huddled under welcome banners in front of Maracana Stadium. But McCartney dodged the wellwishers as he headed into the stadium under heavy guard. On Friday, McCartney delivered a pro-ecology message during the concert. The singer is a supporter of the environmental group Friends of the Earth. McCartney wanted to visit Brazil's Amazon rain forest, the target of protests by ecologists because of growing destruction by ranchers and settlers, but the trip was cancelled for lack of time. McCartney, his wife Linda and their four children have been staying in a luxury hotel in Rio's beachfront Copacabana district since Wednesday.

Water-skier recclaims artificial arm

CALEDONIA, Minnesota (AP) — It lay at the bottom of the Mississippi River for 9½ months, but Chuck Rollins says his artificial arm will be as good as new with a couple of straps and a cable. Rollins, 66, was water skiing in July when his artificial arm came off after his son-in-law accelerated the boat too quickly. He had a new limb made, but knew that someone would find the flesh-coloured arm and wonder where the corpse was. The \$2,000 prosthesis with stainless steel hooks surfaced on the end of Corene McCallison's line as she fished Tuesday near Brownsville in southeastern Minnesota. "I was completely surprised," she said. McCallison, 20, of Hickah, called police. Word of her catch quickly made news and reached Rollins, a retired Caledonia construction worker who lost his limb about 13 years ago when a loader tipped over. On Wednesday, he walked into the Houston County Sheriff's Office and announced, "Well, I'm the corpse that belonged to that arm."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Filipino troops capture mutinous major

MANILA (AP) — Troops have captured an air force major who allegedly led mutineers in taking over an air base in the December coup attempt against President Corason Aquino, the military announced Sunday. Meanwhile, Mrs. Aquino blamed armed opponents for the nation's woes and urged them to shun violence. A military report said Maj. Wilfredo Mateo, posing as a caretaker at a cockfighting arena in the suburb of Paranaque, was arrested Saturday after troops identified him as a rebel leader in the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt. Mateo is among more than 2,200 officers and men in custody of military authorities.

Bhutto to visit Soviet Union

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expected to visit the Soviet Union later this year in a bid to improve ties strained by the decade-old war in neighbouring Afghanistan, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Frontier Post newspaper said a meeting between Ms. Bhutto and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been in the making since Pakistan's foreign secretary visited Moscow last month. The independent newspaper, headquartered in the frontier city of Peshawar, quoted unnamed sources as saying no date had been set for a meeting and detail were still being worked out.

Storm kills 30 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Houses collapsed and trees toppled under blasts of winds from tropical storms, killing at least 30 people and injuring 1,500 others, officials and newspapers said Sunday. The latest storms, which lashed northern Bangladesh Friday, brought to at least 220 the number of people killed since the summer storm season began a month ago. A least 24 people were killed and 500 injured Friday in the Sirajganj district 105 kilometres northwest of Dhaka, a district official said. More than 50 villages, with houses composed mostly of mud and straw, were battered by winds of 100 to 150 kilometres an hour, the official said when contacted by telephone in Sirajganj.